

Making Your Milestone a Moment

Design and entertainment expert William P. Miller shares ideas to make your next birthday celebration memorable.

STYLING AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM P. MILLER



I am often called on to design birthday parties for clients around the world and what I have learned is that no matter where you are, your birthday is a once-in-a-life time moment.

Your birthday is a day worth celebrating so plan an affair that will honor your life as well as rekindle treasured relationships with family and friends in your own living environment.

Whether you will be entertaining a large number of guests or hosting an intimate soiree, creating an event WOW factor is about delivering an unforgettable experience for your guests.

Recently, I had the pleasure of designing a very special client's Fifty and Fabulous celebration. Here are a few simple tips I used to transform her style into her moment.

CUSTOM FABRICS

The use of custom fabrication makes your event unique. Your event will have your personal sense of style which will be noticed immediately by your guests. I shop to find unique fabrics that complement my client's home. I love using colored fabrics that pop such as orange, red and purple or those that have designs with shapes. I find that they work best for designing custom table linens, chair covers and napkins. Custom fabrication helps define "the look" that will ultimately provide inspiration for your additional design elements.

As you select fabrics for your design, think creatively. Mixing and matching can be fun and will become a topic of conversation when coordinated properly. I love using a uniform chair with different chair backings. Simple chair adornments such

as jewels, bands and belts will help tie the look together.

SOPHISTICATED SETTINGS

When styling sophisticated settings, remember that every seat does not have to be a chair. Creating beautiful lounge areas using ottomans and benches provide great seating options for your guests to relax and be comfortable. When you design your ottomans with custom covers and accent with matching pillows, you are making a style statement.

Cabanas are a focal point for every event. Styling your cabana with your favorite fabric swag, plants and chandelier will make a sexy setting.

DELICACIES THAT DELIGHT

To make the guests feel welcomed at this event, each was offered a welcome cor-