

# → decor



## \* GET CONNECTED

BUNGALOW 6 DESIGN  
Minneapolis / 612.861.1183  
www.bungalowsix.com

EVENT LAB  
Minneapolis / 952.224.8558  
www.eventlab.net

THE STYLE LABORATORY  
Minneapolis / 612.825.4705  
www.stylelaboratory.com

## Decor That Dazzles BY THERESE NABER

FOLLOW THE LEADERS WITH THESE 10 GREAT EVENT DECOR IDEAS.

It's what strikes your guests first, sets the mood and sustains it throughout the party. It's decor, and it's downright crucial to the success of your event. Our experts give you 10 hot tips to make your event as impressive as it can possibly be.

### Light up!

>> The experts agree that lighting has huge impact. Whatever your budget, Todd Pinzuti, owner and president of Bungalow 6 Design, says, "I'd spend half of that on lighting because that's where you're going to get the most transformation of space." And don't forget candlelight. Geri Wolf, senior event planner for The Style Laboratory, says, "Candlelight is one of the least expensive ways to have phenomenal decor."

### Color or not?

>> "The last few seasons have been all about color. Now we're back to black, silver and white," Wolf explains. Pinzuti also says black is back in a big way, saying, "It's like people can't get enough of it." Wolf feels you need to add texture to prevent a monochromatic scheme from looking "flat and boring."

### Lounge around.

>> Becky Harris, national sales manager for Event Lab, says lounge furniture such as sofas, chairs and custom-made pillows is still one of the biggest requests for an event. She sees it as a "cool and trendy way for people to relax and chill out."

### Make it sparkle and shine.

>> "A sea of floating chandeliers" is how Pinzuti describes the effect when he put lots of chandelier crystals on fish line suspended over tables. Wolf also mentions crystal, as well as water and ice to reflect light. She says that "ice beads" or balls of ice on string reflect light beautifully.

### Make it personal.

>> Whether it's putting the company name on a lampshade, a pillow, or on M&Ms—designers agree clients want to personalize their events. This doesn't have to mean tacky or obvious branding, but that it can be artfully done as an integral part of the decor.

### Say it again, and again.

>> Repeating elements helps you make a strong design statement. Pinzuti says, "I love a million of anything repeated." He believes a simple glass container and one beautiful flower repeated down a table can have a powerful impact. "Orchid martinis," where one orchid head spills out of a martini glass, is one stunning example.

### Go green.

>> It's happening in almost every other aspect of life, so it's no surprise that environmental consciousness is coming into event design. Whether it's about where the flowers come from or how linens are washed, Wolf says, "The whole green conversation is happening, not just in food, but in decor."





### Let's table that.

>> Tables are not just a ho-hum practical aspect of your event; they're part of your statement. Pinzuti says, "People love alternative table arrangements. Try raising an eight-foot banquet table to bar height, making it possible for many guests to gather round it. It's a great way to network at an event that doesn't involve a sit-down dinner."

### To theme or not to theme.

>> Harris says she sees a trend away from cookie-cutter themes, with more focus on "creating a hip and trendy environment with fabrics, colors and textures," says Harris, rather than a theme per se.

### A phenomenal few.

>> If your budget is tight, or even if it's not, Wolf recommends choosing a few elements to "make phenomenal." Wolf says this stretches your budget, but she also feels that people can only take in so much. Selecting several special components for high impact and guests will be impressed without going into sensory overload.

THERESE NABER is a freelance writer who lives in Minneapolis.



(this page): Bungalow 6's Todd Pinzuti topped tables with arrangements of white flowers in glass containers. "I love a million of everything repeated," he says. (opposite page): Geni Wolf from The Style Laboratory says that simple white, black and silver are the latest trendy colors.