

on the table

# earth angels

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
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It's easy being green for a Los Angeles sister act.

It's the time of year for giving thanks. Most people concentrate on family, friends, and good health, but Los Angeles-based home and lifestyle consultants Laura Forbes Carlin and Alison Forbes add Mother Earth to that list. Earlier this year, the sisters coauthored *The Peaceful Nursery*, a guide offering organic sources and design ideas for serene nurseries. Now they've moved to the dining room, creating an eating area that reflects nature, uses eco-friendly accessories, and promotes healthful living. >



"Cottonwood Leaf" dipped in gold for votive, \$37, Still Life (800/211-2511). Swirled kikar vases, \$49 and \$69, recycled glass goblets, \$59 for four, tumblers, \$39 for four, and mini-nests in antique brass, \$32 for four; Viva Terra (vivaterra.com). "Love Birds" recycled aluminum placecard holders, \$50 for four, Michael Aram (michaelaram.com).



## get the look

Follow these tips from Alison Forbes and Laura Forbes Carlin to make dinnertime one of the most relaxed moments of the day. ■ Keep the dining table clear throughout the day, and don't let it become a dumping ground for clutter. ■ To promote equality in terms of comfort and conversation, avoid placing larger or more comfortable chairs at the head of the table. ■ Create a centerpiece to direct the focus and keep conversation flowing.

**Left:** Recycled glass candleholders in citrus and olive, \$16–\$20 each, Fire & Light (naturalspaces.com).



"Some people decorate by first envisioning how a room is going to look, which is important because beauty is inspirational," says Alison. "We focus on total well-being, starting with how the room functions and what materials are used in it."

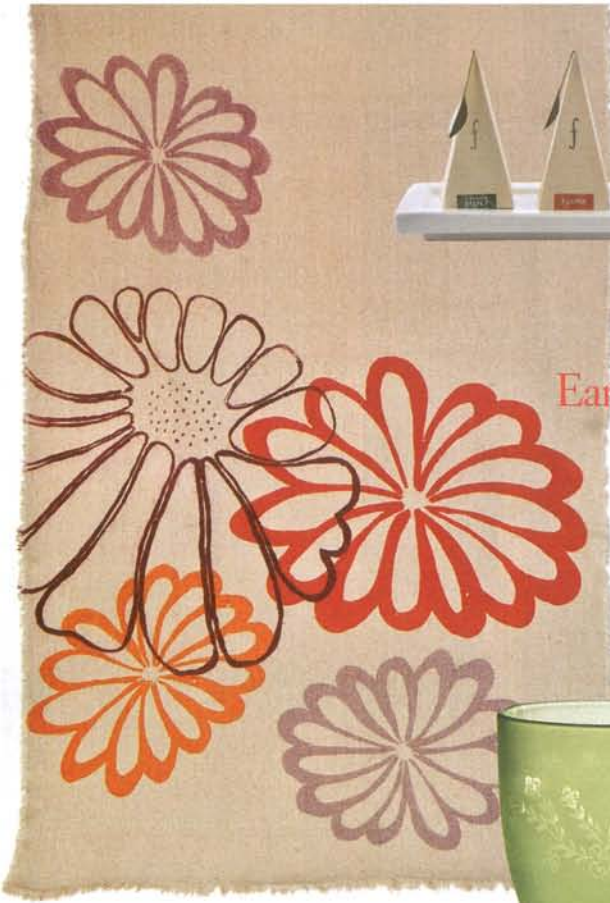
For their eco-elegant table, Laura and Alison started with a blanket of earthy moss over plastic that covers the round surface of the table and gives the space the feeling of an enchanted forest. The moss was spritzed with a fine mist to keep it pliable so it could be flattened to stabilize table accoutrements. Square woven-bamboo placemats add warm wood tones and anchor a setting of pottery glazed in ivory with gold, platinum, and bronze detailing, along with teak flatware. Glasses recycled from old bottles glow in luminescent green.

Instead of formal flower arrangements, vases made from kikar wood, a close cousin to teak, hold persimmon berry branches. To contrast the dark vases, glass containers wrapped with light birch bark, a by-product from furniture manufacturing, were filled with airy Siberian lunaria. Figs and dried baobab pods were randomly placed on the moss surface, extending the feel of a forest.

"It's common for people to look at eating well simply as being all about ingredients," says Laura. "But the dining experience also includes a calming, peaceful setting. Healthy food needs to be supported by a healthy environment." ➤

For details, call 310/867-1504 or visit [artofeverydayliving.com](http://artofeverydayliving.com).

Bamboo placemat, \$50, Geary's Beverly Hills (800/793-6670). "Gold Fringe" dinner plate, \$75, "Platinum Fringe" salad plate, \$67, and solid copper small plate, \$63; Soule Studio (soulestudio.com). Teak flatware, \$49 for five pieces, Viva Terra (vivaterra.com). Hemp napkin in ivory, \$7, Rawganique (rawganique.com). "Cottonwood Leaf" napkin wrap, \$18, and "Rose Leaf" ribbon bookmark, \$32; Still Life (800/211-2511). Flower arrangements, birch-log vases, and moss tablecloth by Mary Burton Flowers (maryburtonflowers.com).



Silk noil throw, \$970, Mary Ann Chatterton through the Lisa Fontanarosa Collection (505/872-1929). Silk tea infusers, \$24 for 15, and tea trestle, \$10; Tea Forté (800/721-1149).

## pick your greens

Earth-conscious housewares in organic and recycled materials have never looked better.



Yoma Textiles "Fraîche" recycled polyester fabric in turquoise, crème, and aloe (212/431-4794). "Vintage" recycled glass goblet, \$48 for four, and tumbler, \$32 for four; Green Sage (greensage.com). "Echo" vase, \$270, Soulé Studio (soulestudio.com).



"Talker" woven abaca chair, \$980, Eric Brand Furniture, to the trade through Thomas Lavin (310/278-2456).

Gold seaglass wave bowl, \$88, and copper seaglass platter, \$56; Riverside Design Group (riversidedesigns.com). "Sol" recycled glass dinner plate in lime, \$45 for four, Viva Terra (vivaterra.com). Recycled glass plate in celery, \$17, Fire & Light (naturalspaces.com).



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