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A photograph of a dining room. A long, dark wood table is set with white plates, silverware, and glasses. A vase of orange flowers sits in the center. The walls are covered in floral wallpaper. A large, white, cylindrical chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The room is lit with warm, ambient lighting.

La Fantasia Japonaise,
designed by Duffy
Design Group,
sponsored by Sanford
Custom Builders

THE ULTIMATE DINNER PARTY

At Boston's second annual Dining by Design gala, top local and national talent pooled their collective genius to create 23 dining tableaux. The displays introduced top trends for 2009, while the fund-raiser, hosted by the Boston Design Center and the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS, garnered nearly \$200,000 to benefit Community Research Initiative of New England, a leader in HIV and AIDS care. We've selected our favorite tables from that magical evening — four delicious combinations sure to inspire your next design-forward bash.

Written by MOLLY JANE QUINN • *Photography by* ERIC ROTH

Natural Wonder,
designed by
Meichi Peng
Studio, sponsored
by W Hotel





NATURAL WONDER

Inspired by booth sponsor W Hotel's new lobby, interior designer Meichi Peng's team created a dining area (PAGE 95) that combines modern sensibilities with natural materials. Peng draped filmy sheer fabric over the structure for an intimate ambience. On the room's perimeter, a channel of white river stones mimics the curvilinear dining plates, and injects Zen-like calm. "It's about the contrast between the pergola structure, the metal mesh drapery, and the natural elements of white river rock and natural moss offsetting the wood table and glass accessories," says Jeff Osborne, designer at Meichi Peng Studio.



MOTIF: In the center of the table, fluttering aubergine paper butterflies burst forth from three glass cylinders. The butterflies are the signature emblem of W Hotel, but they also personify resurrection. The Greek word for "butterfly" is *psyche*, which translates to soul, making the insect a spirited party decoration.

PLACE SETTING: Oblong ceramic dishes are topped with chopsticks and a soy-sauce bowl (the vessels are playfully filled with moss). The standouts on this simple table, however, are the clever coasters Peng's team made using granite salvaged from construction at the W Hotel.



DECONSTRUCTION

Interior designer Charles Fletcher took his design cues (PAGE 94) from booth sponsor Online-Buddies.com, a gay social networking website. "There are mirrors on three walls and hanging on the long wall of the room is a row of empty gilded picture frames, all painted the same color — an exploration of voyeurism and how we frame ourselves online," says Fletcher. Custom bronze silk runners crisscross the table. Fletcher then piled leaves and branches into a festive centerpiece. Sterling flatware picks up on the gray hues of the picture frames, bringing the tonal design full circle.



MOTIF: The overall color pairing in Fletcher's dining area is orange and gray. More than just a sophisticated palette, the two shades symbolize darkness and light; in Native American traditions, gray signifies friendship, while orange marks kinship. Together, the hues make for a warm, welcoming environment.

PLACE SETTING: Stacking unusual chargers, plates, and salad bowls makes a table dynamic. Fletcher topped a gold-rimmed orange charger by William Yeoward with a black fluted porcelain salad bowl by Royal Copenhagen. A grapefruit-sized gold bowl with a scallop edge finishes the eclectic setting.