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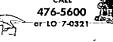
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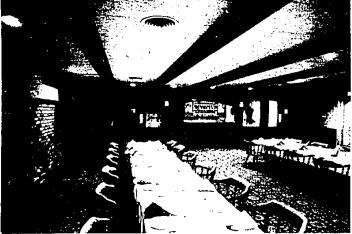
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## What One Needs For Beautiful Table

Your tableware reflects you in a very intimate way, the way you secretly think about yourself, the way you like to entertain, your taste and your sense of the right thing to do. You should choose it carefully, because you will live with it a very long time.

The largest element in your tableware selection is your dinnerware. and you should choose it first. Factors to consider include the different types of dinnerware, its harmonizing with your interior design, and the coordination of dinnerware with flatware and glassware.

The most popular types of dinnerware today are earthenware, melamine (plastic or non-ceramic) and china. Earthenware and melamine are appropriate for informal, breakfast and luncheon dining. You will probably use your china for dinner and formal entertaining.

Since china requires a large investment, you should spend some time in its selection. A standard place setting is five pieces: dinner plate: dessert or salad plate; bread and butter plate and cup and saucer.

Start with at least six place settings if possible. This will permit you to entertain two other couples or both sets of parents at once. Later on



COORDINATION OF CHINA, silver and glassware is beautifully illustrated in this setting. China and silver are decorated, while glassware is classically simple. Because this is an informal luncheon, napkin can be folded and placed in an infinite variety of ways. Wooden butter plate adds texture to the table, is an inexpensive way of putting creativity into your table. Silver is by Towle.

you may want to add enough place settings to give you a service for 12. Soup and fruit dishes are nice to have, but are not needed for start-

Your basic serving pieces are creamer, sugar, gravy boat, meat and vegetable platters. You will probably want to buy your fine china in an open stock pattern, especially if you can't have a complete set at first.

ALTHOUGH YOUR ultimate choice is a reflection of your own personality, there are some practical matters to consider. Round dishes stack better than square or freeforms, and are easier to handle when wash-

Embossed patterns collect dust and require more careful cleaning.

Directional patterns must be placed precisely on the table. Be sure to check the quality of the china you are buying. It must be translucent. The color should be clear, without grayness or muddiness. Pattern and trim should be free of small breaks and imperfections.

Check the rim of the cup for signs of rough, warped or wavy edges. While examining the cup, also observe the eveness of the shape and the joining of the foot and handle. How will the pieces look in use? Is the cuphandle big enough for a man to use comfortably? Hold the plate to the light at an angle. Is the glaze completely smooth with no wavipess or bumps, and is it guaranteed against crazing (developing a network of tiny cracks)?

There are some general rules (which, like most decorating rules are made to be broken) to help you coordinate your china with your decor. In general, china with a simple gold or platinum band, plain or with very simple decoration will blend with most furniture backgrounds.

Informal patterns harmonize with country or provincial type furniture, bolder ones with contemporary styles. Formal patterns, those with strong, sophisticated and ornate designs combine well with furnishings of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Select glassware which goes well with your china. Two types are available. One, machine-blown into a mold, produces pieces which are exactly alike. On the other hand, fine crystal is always hand-blown, with each piece varying almost imperceptibly in appearance and size. Both fine crystal and china have a clear, bell-like ring.