

ON *the* GO

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Stephanie
Bennett

DECORATE THE DINING ROOM

BY DVIRA OVADIA | The dining room may not be the most-used space in our homes, but it is a dedicated space for entertaining guests especially this time of year. The right dining set, eye-catching fixtures and well-appointed décor will turn any dining room into a fabulously entertaining space. With the holidays around the corner, create a fabulous space that will resonate with friends and family

Since dining tables tend to last decades, they're well worth the money spent. However, before choosing your table, consider how often you entertain and how many people usually attend. A frequent entertainer with a large family might choose an oversized table, but if using once a year, a smaller, more intimate table may be better suited.

Select the shape of your table according to the design and space of your dining room. Most dining rooms are rectangular, making rectangular-shaped tables more common and ideal for accommodating a large group. Oval tables occupy less space and are suitable for more narrow areas. A round dining table is perfect for smaller, intimate gatherings in square-shaped spaces. However, an oversized, round table takes up a lot of room, and while you can still communicate with your guests, everyone seems far away. A square-shaped table, in a square space, provides the same intimacy and may accommodate more guests, if extendable.

Lighting is the key to a great dining room. Today



chandeliers have been revamped to reflect a more urban feel with features such as black crystal, multiple pendant lighting options hung in a linear format, a semi flush mount light with a shade, or multiple fixtures, clustered in various heights. When the right lighting is layered correctly with dimmers, lighting will enhance the atmosphere and add a focal point — like a beautiful piece of fine jewelry. Great place for dining room lighting is **Royal Lighting**; here you will find a vast array of great styles and finishes to select from.

Dressing your table for the holidays can be lots of fun, and layering is key! Find a fabulous table cloth that's stylish and you can layer with an organza or lace runner (these can even be home made from fabrics sourced at a local fabric shop). Create a centerpiece with birch branches, candles, or other holiday decorations.

TIPS:

1. Before purchasing a table, **measure your dining room** and allow for chair movement. The rule of thumb is leave a minimum of 36 inches around the table, so guests can comfortably pull out their chairs.
2. **Choose a fixture that is within proper proportion** to your table, usually half the width of the table. Center the fixture to the table, and hang approximately 29 to 34 inches above the table for an 8-foot ceiling. Add three inches for each additional foot.
3. When it comes to decorating, always have the center of your table dressed with a grouping of **large décor objects**, to add a splash of colour consider a bold coloured tray or some glass containers filled with fruits or candies to draw your eye to the vivid tones.



Toronto-based celebrity and award-winning designer **Dvira Ovadia**, Principal of Dvira Interiors, is known

for her appearances and design work on various HGTV shows. Dvira and her team use their profound understanding of design to create stylishly smart spaces. Servicing clientele throughout Ontario & the GTA. www.dvira.com | @DVIRAdesigner