

WHEN A ROOM DANCES WITH DESIGNERS

BY BILLY FONG
PHOTOGRAPHY TAMYTHA CAMERON

On a recent moonlit night, we found ourselves in the foyer of **Michelle Nussbaumer's** delightful Preston Hollow home, the *AD100* designer and her charming husband, **Bernard**, were hosting a dinner with members of the *Architectural Digest* team, including *AD's* chic girl in the know, interior and garden director **Alison Levasseur**, to celebrate the opening of The Container Store Custom Closets store. Guests barely made their way inside before conversations bubbled over with such snippets as: "I saw your Insta pictures from Lyford Design Week. So jealous!" and "Where did you find those fabulous earrings?" — the latter, regarding the stunning red chandeliers swinging from our hostess' ears. I had to promise that I wouldn't share her shopping secrets. She's renowned for her little black book of sources for the exquisite items she culls for her exotic emporium, Ceylon et Cie. "I am over-the-moon when I can have an intimate evening with my fellow designers that I respect and adore so much," Nussbaumer said. "And it's always an honor to have my friends from *AD* at my home. I love pouring them a stiff tequila. It sets the mood for some potential late-night cha-cha-ing in my parlor."



Caroline Whitman, Michelle Nussbaumer, Capera Ryan, Lisa Fine



Christopher Goddard



Caitlin Wilson
Christopher Donnelly



Mia Brous, Billy Fong



Meredith Ellis





Margery Hurlbut

Guests eventually made their way to the dining room, where the tables were set with Nussbaumer's signature blue-and-white porcelain, and Cassandra Fine Catering devised a divine menu featuring loup de mer intricately mosaicked with baby zucchini, and a heavenly crisp-meringued pavlova to finish. Did the evening end with a cha-cha? Well, what happens chez Michelle stays chez Michelle.

The Container Store's Kelley Schadt, Felipe Avila; and Jennifer Pereira, Russ Peters, James Campbell, Eden Delaune, Margaret Chambers, and Kim Turner.



Ann & David Sutherland



Shelly Johnson, Cathy Kincaid



Amy Berry



Alvise Orsini, Caroline Whitman, Brad Kelly



John Phifer Marrs
Kimberly Schlegel Whitman



Jeffrey Caldwell, Alison Levasseur



Brenda Houston, Rob Dailey
Chad Dorsey, Troy Hanson



Bill Cates

