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A summer gathering at Shelley Johnstone's Chicago home, featuring [Tory Burch tabletop](#) and a tablecloth by Botanica Trading, photographed by Cynthia Lynn

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Shelley Johnstone, wearing Tory's [Celeste caftan](#), as she preps for the poolside gathering, photographed by Cynthia Lynn

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Don't forget the fresh fruit and flora — seen here with Tory's [Oiseau](#) and [lettuce ware plates](#), [Mackie highball glasses](#) and decorative leaf plates, photographed by Cynthia Lynn

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Tory's [Oiseau](#) and [lettuce ware plates](#), [Mackie highball glasses](#) and decorative leaf plates, styled with Creel and Gow's straw placemat, Cabana Capri's straw-covered glasses and Alain Saint-Joanis bamboo-style flatware, photographed by Cynthia Lynn

Shelley's Summer Table-Setting Tips

1. Start with a fun tablecloth. The tablecloth can set the tone for the entire gathering. Being an interior designer, I am surrounded by a ton of amazing fabrics that are my constant source for inspiration. I usually fall in love with a fabric knowing it will be perfect for making pillows and tablecloths for summer gatherings in my backyard by the pool. I use hues of blues and pinks and mix it up with every event.

2. Use a lot of pretty flowers. I like to mix garden-center perennials and green plants with fresh-cut flowers. For this table I planted green ferns with white geraniums and hydrangeas in white ceramic containers. For the center of the table I arranged fresh-cut parrot tulips, white and pink peony, ranunculus and greens in Tory's white leaf pitcher.

3. Mix the china patterns. Here, I used Tory's blue and white Oiseau salad plates on top of her white lettuce ware dinner plates. I also scattered her small pink and green leaf pieces around the table for interest and color.

4. Mix in some natural straw and bamboo to add a sense of casual summer ease.

5. Add colored glasses for a pop of color and interest.

6. Fresh fruit in bowls instantly adds color, too, and makes the table really feel like summer. For this table, I used fresh strawberries and kept their green tops.

7. Lastly, have fun, mix and match, and set a table that is pretty and relaxed. It will set the tone for your gathering.
