



PHOTOS BY TAMMY LJUNGBLAD | THE KANSAS CITY STAR
 "It's been a long winter and everyone's been ready for spring for months," says David Jimenez of Hallmark, who used roses, hydrangeas and tulips for his table. The macaroons and cakes are from Natasha's Mulberry & Mott in Leawood.

OVER THE TABLETOP

Designers turn their talents to the dining surface and to charity.

By STACY DOWNS
 The Kansas City Star

Dining by Design showcases elaborate, whimsical and elegant table decorations from interior designers in Kansas City.

The annual event, held last week, included tours of the tables at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center hotel. Proceeds benefit DIFFA, Design Industries Foundation for Fighting AIDS, a national nonprofit organization. The Kansas City chapter founded the Dining by Design event more than 15 years ago, and other chapters across the country also have the event.

Home accessories designer Marc Blackwell of New York was in Kansas City to dish on the tables and serve up ideas.

"The rules of tabletop design are you need lighting, something live and wine within reach of each guest," says Blackwell, whose tableware is available at Halls.



The 'DIFFA Dude Ranch' by Richard Manes: Tree-stump chargers, badge place cards, a grass runner, tin can votives, lanterns and barbed wire.



Don Rogers, Gina Estes and Andrea Ring of Halls channeled a 1960s board room a la "Mad Men," complete with retro fashion ads, legal pads, vintage cocktail glasses and ashtrays.



A cage of flowers and origami birds created the centerpiece for the table by Urban Dwellings Design of Kansas City.