



TABLE D'HAUTE

Winter wonderland

The arrival of the winter solstice shortly after midnight Friday could be toasted aptly in the setting Gil Mendez designed for last month's Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS fundraiser at the San Francisco Design Center.

Mendez imagined his hostess as the Queen of Narnia and devised a color scheme as cool as she: Benjamin Moore paint in Pool Blue and Icy Mist offset by 9,600

cream carnations covering pillars and a few hundred white roses encircling the stark, mirrored centerpiece; blue silk table coverings trimmed in faux caramel fur that mimics Mendez's idea of the white witch's couture style; and for the

crowning icy touches, Ironies' tiered Jaeger chandelier (from Kneeder-Fauchere) with Vaughan Double Twig wall lights (from McRae & Co.).

"The Queen has grown quite tired of using Turkish Delight to lure and

bribe the innocent as well as the naive," Mendez writes in his design statement. "She has also decided that poisoned apples are much too antediluvian, and little vials of poison are 'oh-so-Shakespearean.' So what treats could possibly

await us during the feast to follow?" If they be poison, at least may they be as pretty as the queen's party table.

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—Susan Fornoff

