

Ambiance

THEME:

"I'm very into white and gold as a theme right now. It's very holiday -- beaded and sparkly. Have guests wear something that goes with your theme and they can also be the decor."

DÉCOR:

"If you're having a party at home, prep your house: Take coffee table books and anything breakable and put it away," Lara advises. "Make sure you have enough toilet paper and hand towels in the bathroom. Put white sheets over the furniture and move it around to look like Bungalow 8 (an exclusive club in New York City). Use your dining room table for desserts or as your bar. Take your dining room chairs and move them into the living room to create lounge-like vignettes. IKEA has inexpensive side tables (Lack side table, \$12.99, ikea.com). Put a pillow on top of them. You can make ottomans. (See instructions in *Party Confidential*. Or use your outdoor cushions and arrange them inside."

LIGHTS:

"Put your lights on dimmers -- you can buy those at K-Mart or Target for \$10 --and change your light bulbs to peach or amber. Candles are really important. Votives can create amazing decor. You can float candles in old glass vases. Club Monaco has amazing candlesticks in different heights. You can buy white pillar candles anywhere. Group them in sets of three, five, or eight. If you want to do flowers, float a gardenia or buy white roses, hedge them, and wrap a gold ribbon around the vase." (We like Bah Humbug by Dirt Candles, \$24, DirtCandles.com.)

TIP: "As a party host, know your party outfit ahead of time," Lara suggests. "Try it on before the party so you're not getting ready as guests are arriving. Dress up! Wear a hot, sexy, gold dress -- that's really in right now. Put on some fake eyelashes." (Get a gold Adam + Eve Bow Dress, \$396, at Shopbop.com. Try gold star Nippies underneath, favored by Paris Hilton. Bristols6.com, \$15.)

