

THE OFF DUTY SUMMER 50 DESIGN & DECORATING

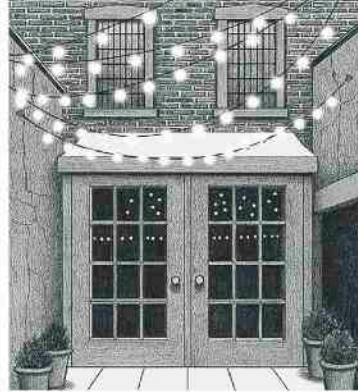
# Set Up a Twinkler System

Finally, string lights worthy of even the fanciest garden parties

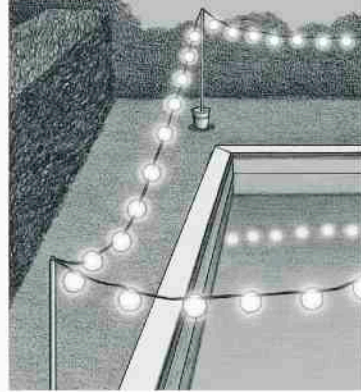
**YOU'VE HAD ONE** of those blissful afternoons in the backyard with friends, grilling, chatting, sipping Lillet. Then the sun begins to fade. Guests start discreetly checking iPhones. Spouses signal "let's go?" to one another. Luckily, you've lined the patio with strands of pretty lights—sweet wire birds (\$39, [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com)), or perfect little bulbs left chicly bare (\$39, [restorationhardware.com](http://restorationhardware.com)) or shaded with orange lacquer pagodas (\$49, [westelm.com](http://westelm.com)) or delicate ceramic shells (\$224, [pigeontoceramics.com](http://pigeontoceramics.com)). Now flip the switch. Suddenly, faces are bathed in a soft, romantic glow. iPhones slip back into pockets. Glasses are refilled. Some enchanted evening, indeed.



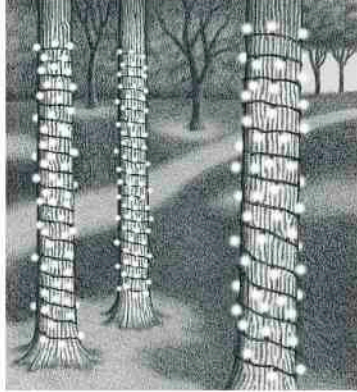
## HOW TO: FIVE WAYS TO STRING THEM



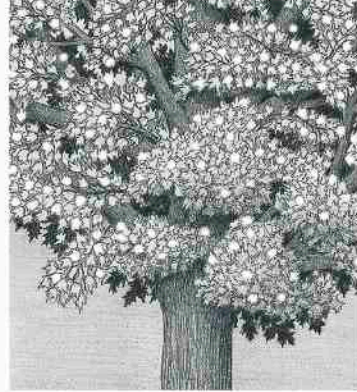
**CASUAL SWAGS** Hang multiple strands loosely above the space. Let some strands dip lower than others.



**BRIGHT BORDER** String a single strand between poles around the perimeter of the space.



**AROUND TREES** Wrap basic string lights around the bottoms of trees in tight clusters.



**NESTLED IN LEAVES** Weave strands throughout dense foliage for a firefly effect.



**CANOPY OF STARS** String lights from poles arrayed in a circle around a center point—a tree, say—in your yard.

## 28

### BEGUILE WITH TEXTILES

Do like super-decorator Muriel Brandolini and cover your world in tempting hand-blocked fabrics

**LEGENDARY DESIGNERS** are not timorous but rather gale forces of personality. Muriel Brandolini is a tempest. The decorator creates rooms in which important antiques socialize with French flea-market wicker. She layers pattern and especially color in cheeky, never-formulaic combinations that only a gutsy master stylist could pull off. Case in point: her Hamptons Shangri-La. One room alone combines bougainvillea-pink-painted floors with an indigo-and-eggplant-upholstered sofa flanked by stools covered in turquoise and navy leopard-print pony skin with pompom trim. A bright red lacquered lamp with a mustard shade sits audaciously to one side. Besides looking incredibly cool, the whole package is, counter-intuitively, soothing.

Hand-blocked textiles are chief among Ms. Brandolini's secret weapons. Her eponymous line of fabrics, sold through Holland & Sherry, has been handmade in Jaipur by the same women for 16 years. Recently, Ms. Brandolini released a subtle new collection that features gorgeous grays, muted blues, swampy ochers and shell pinks. "I was inspired by cypress trees and olive branches, paler colors and hints of metallic," said Ms. Brandolini.

I'd like to have my own house Brandolini-ed, but she doesn't come cheap. Until I can afford her, I shall make do with the next best thing: a few rolls of her new fabric. Especially Pearl Grey #4, which desperately wants to cover my bedroom walls.

—Sara Ruffin Costello



Tim Street-Porter; F. Martin Ramin for The Wall Street Journal. Styling by Anne Cardenas (Fabric)

**LAYERED CAKE** In her bedroom, Ms. Brandolini used bold patterned fabrics on the walls, banquette and stools. Her new collection features subtler colors, including (from left): Beige #13, Peach #1, Beige #14, Pearl Grey # 3, Pearl Grey #4, to the trade, available through Holland & Sherry, 212-355-6241

## 29

### KEEP THE FLOWERS CASUAL

KATHRYN M. IRELAND, interiors and fabric designer

"Throughout the summer I yearn for arrangements filled with the kinds of flowers I find on walks in the French countryside. When in Los Angeles, I pull from my own kitchen garden or local flower markets. I love to mix and match—a few hydrangeas with one or two roses or marigolds, a tulip, a peony. I'll also throw in a handful of blackberries. I love to play around with casual arrangements; never too many of the same bloom, with a mix of colors and scents."



Kathryn Ireland

### FAST FIVE



## 30

### DINE OUT BY CANDLELIGHT

Crown the table, block the wind and set the mood with a blazing centerpiece

**Clockwise from top:** White Coral Porcelain Vase Designed by Ted Muehling 2000 for Porzellan-Manufaktur Nymphenburg, \$1,559, Ted Muehling, 212-431-3825; Classic Hurricane in Natural Brass, \$700, [ralphlaurerhome.com](http://ralphlaurerhome.com); Lazy Susan Florid Cement Lantern, \$50, Loport Arts, 508-263-0189; Antique Silver Etched Hurricane, \$22, [jamaligarden.com](http://jamaligarden.com); Hand-Blown Swedish Crystal Hurricane Lanterns Designed by Deborah Ehrlich, Manufactured by E.R. Butler & Co., \$300-\$1,500, E.R. Butler & Co., 212-925-3565

F. Martin Ramin for The Wall Street Journal. Set Styling by DSM Alan Whitestone for The Wall Street Journal

F. Martin Ramin for The Wall Street Journal. Styling by Anne Cardenas. Set Styling by DSM