

ENTERTAINING WITH STYLE

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

FROM HAND-DELIVERED INVITES TO A CHAMPAGNE BAR AND A BRASS WELCOME BY A JAZZ BAND, NEW ORLEANS HOSTESS EXTRAORDINAIRE JANE SCOTT HODGES PULLS OUT ALL THE STOPS WHEN DESIGNER KEN FULK BREEZES THROUGH THE BIG EASY.

INTERIOR DESIGN **Gwen Driscoll**
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1 STRIKE UP THE BAND!

“Music is a key element in creating an experience. In New Orleans, we treasure our brass bands. To welcome my dear friend Ken Fulk, I invited a trio of jazz musicians to perform on the front balcony as guests arrived. It really set a festive tone for the evening.”



In the upstairs study of Jane Scott Hodges's New Orleans home, the walls are covered in Crescent wallpaper by Kelly Wearstler for Groundworks, and the curtains are in Schumacher's Pyne Hollyhock.



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What's the quintessential New Orleans hostess to do when Mr. Party swings into town? Throw a welcome bash, of course. Which is precisely what Jane Scott Hodges, founder of Leontine Linens and a *House Beautiful* contributing editor, did when she learned that San Francisco decorator Ken Fulk—a good friend whose own legendary soirees have featured everything from camels to burlesque dancers—would be passing through the Big Easy. “Everybody here loves a party!” Hodges says. To create an evening to rival one of Fulk’s magical fetes, Hodges filled her Greek Revival home in the Garden District with live music while transforming nearly every room into its own mini destination—like the Champagne bar in the study or the seafood-boil buffet in the dining room. The guest of honor grabbed a glass of bubbly and got right into the celebratory spirit: “If you’re not up for a good time in New Orleans,” Fulk says, “then hang up your top hat and stay home!”

2 THERE'S NO WRONG TIME TO DINE

“I wanted guests to come and go at their leisure. My caterer, Randolph Tucker Fitz-Hugh, Jr., and I devised a deconstructed seafood boil of shrimp, potatoes, and lemons with a red rémoulade sauce that could be served all evening long. People helped themselves to small plates, then scattered to different rooms to enjoy.”



A family heirloom portrait hangs above the dining room mantel on a wall sheathed in a Ralph Lauren Home grass cloth. **OPPOSITE, FROM TOP:** The dining room’s buffet is set with Leontine Linens monogrammed napkins and a mix of Herend and Mottahedeh plates. Ken Fulk (left) mingles with partygoers in the front garden.

3 MAINTAIN A SENSE OF MYSTERY

“The dining room doors were closed when guests arrived, then opened midevening to reveal a beautiful bayou-inspired tableau of driftwood, flowers, and food. Margaret Ludwig [of Giverny Design], a young florist I admire, composed arrangements of roses, larkspurs, scabiosas, parrot tulips, stock, and lisianthus in shades of lavender and peach inspired by the iridescent tones in an oyster shell.”

A handmade invitation by New Orleans artist Suzanne Lossi of Lossi Designs. **OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT:** Hodges joins Fulk in a toast. In the parlor, a bourbon bar is set up on an antique desk from Ware M. Porter & Co.; the artwork (left) is by Mallory Page.



4 GREAT EXPECTATIONS

“Half the fun of a party is the anticipation! I enlisted an artist to create memorable handmade invitations and had them hand-delivered, signaling to all that a special evening was to come.”

5 A PARTY IN EVERY ROOM

“We set up stations around the house and garden, like a bourbon bar on my writing desk and a Champagne bar on the console in the upstairs study, to encourage guests to move about and explore.”

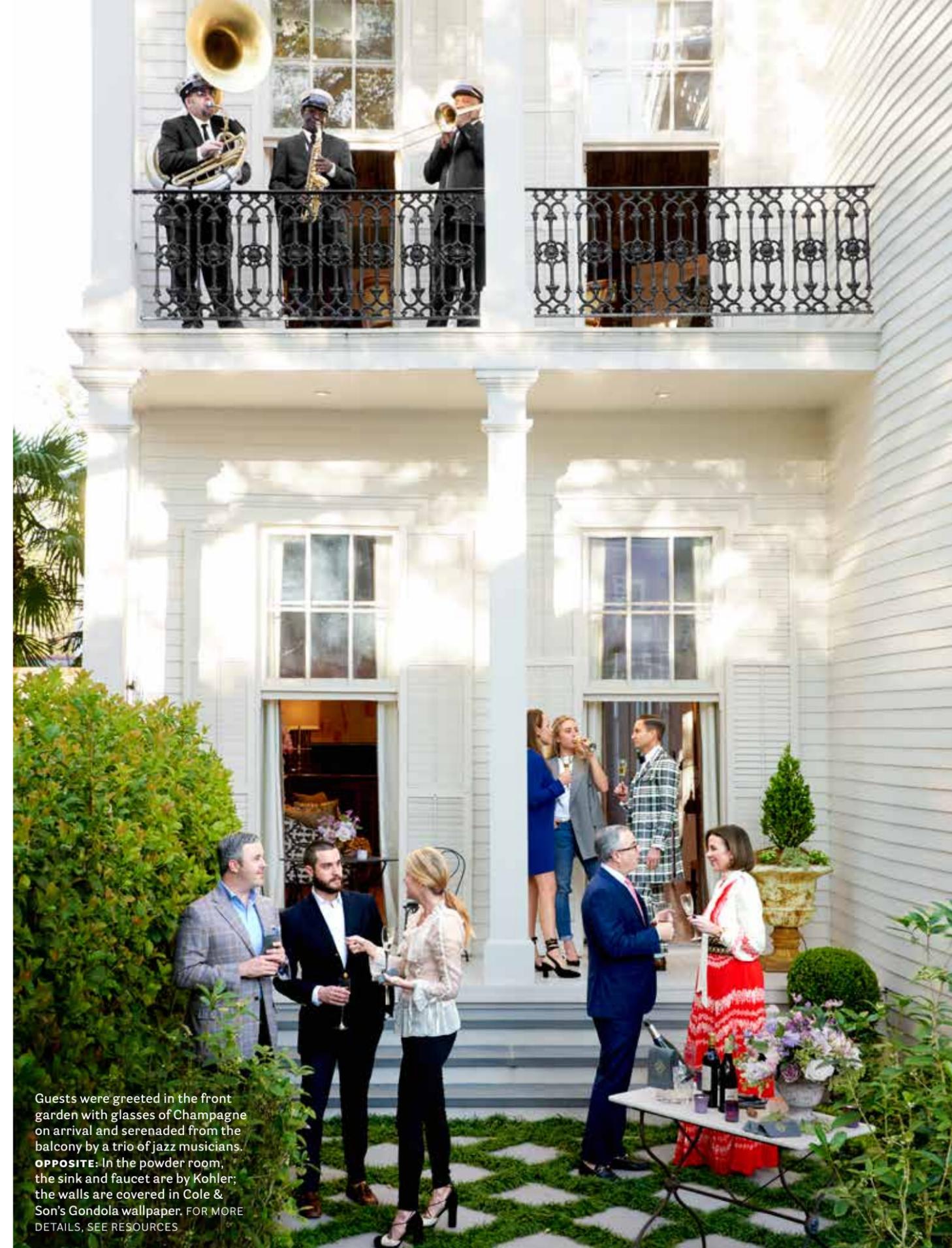


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**EVERY
DETAIL
COUNTS**

“Part of the pleasure of entertaining is dreaming up all the little things that make the night feel personal. I stocked the powder room with tiny French soaps and my monogrammed linens. There’s this wonderful feeling of joy when it all comes together.”



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Guests were greeted in the front garden with glasses of Champagne on arrival and serenaded from the balcony by a trio of jazz musicians. **OPPOSITE:** In the powder room, the sink and faucet are by Kohler; the walls are covered in Cole & Son's Gondola wallpaper. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES