

Styled by Sarah Schushheim; hair by Jillian Halouska at Bryan Bantry Agency for Oribe Hair Care; make-up by Vincent Longo for Bryan Bantry Agency. Turshen wears: Cotton shirt, Thomas Mason for J.Crew, \$148, visit jcrew.com; silver-plated rhodium necklace, Lauren Klassen, \$648, collection at tokocelo.com; her own jeans, apron, and flats. Bonney wears: Silk dress, Suno, \$595, visit sunony.com; silver chain earring, Lux Accessories, \$24, visit shopluxaccessories.com; calfskin sandals, Alexander Wang, \$650, visit alexanderwang.com. For details, see Shopping Guide

THE PARTY GIRLS

Lifestyle power couple Julia Turshen and Grace Bonney throw a cozy, festive dinner party with all the ingredients that matter. By Elyse Moody

Photographed by CHRISTIAN HARDER

Turshen (left) and Bonney, in their sunny Brooklyn kitchen, opposite an antique sign from Turshen's father

Last fall, Julia Turshen was chopping onions for paella in the kitchen of the Greenpoint, Brooklyn, apartment she shares with her now wife, Grace Bonney, when she had a delicious thought. "Grace was arranging flowers in the living room, we were playing music, and I

remember saying to her, 'Oh my God, this is the life. Look, we're living it!'"

Turshen, 29, worked with Gwyneth Paltrow on her cookbooks *It's All Good* and *My Father's Daughter* and is the daughter of Epicurious.com creator Rochelle Udell; Bonney, 33, founded cult decor blog

Design*Sponge in 2004. The two women were only beginning to see how neatly their passions aligned. Turshen had just moved in, bringing with her an heirloom seder table that seats a dozen and, in a felicity that her father toasted at their November 2013 wedding, fit perfectly in the



Grace's tip: "Choose greenery that dries well," like eucalyptus. "You can use it after your main event." Her florist friend Steifman designed the wreath and runner.

Julia's tip: Invite guests' pets too. They'll get people talking ("Hope's our icebreaker," she says) and encourage them to linger.

Julia's tip: Pick a make-ahead dessert, "so that there's no stress at the end of the meal." She served tres leches bread pudding with Phin & Phebes vanilla-cinnamon ice cream.



Grace's tip: "I love to mix [china] patterns. The key is to keep the color palette unified." She used favorite platters made by their friend Newcomb.



Julia's tip: Tosavekitchen space, order in main dishes. She picked up salmon at Greenpoint Fish & Lobster Co.



apartment's narrow dining room. Now that they're settled, Bonney and Turshen crowd their table several times a month—Turshen says her "big occupational hazard" is leftovers from culinary test-drives. Case in point: the bread pudding from her upcoming book with Jessamyn Rodriguez of the nonprofit Hot Bread Kitchen that pals enjoyed at a recent "friendsgiving." Like a lot of people who've made it in the lifestyle space, the couple has garnered comparisons to Martha Stewart, but from the moment their dog, Hope, met arrivals at the door, they were too busy making sure everyone was happy (and well fed) to be perfectionists. The gathering's laid-back feel owed partly to the setting. For Bonney, the 950-square-foot apartment epitomizes life with Turshen. They met in early 2013, after Bonney's 2011 divorce from digital marketing strategist Aaron Coles, when Turshen e-mailed Bonney to compliment her writing and invite her to dinner. Months later, Bonney penned a blog post announcing her new relationship. (Readers responded with more than a hundred congratulatory comments.) Bonney's lav-

ish first nuptials were documented in *Martha Stewart Weddings*, but she and Turshen invited only 11 people to their West Village ceremony and dinner at Buvette, a French bistro owned by Turshen's friend and collaborator Jody Williams. The change has been good. "I've stopped worrying so much about whether or not things match or if they're a perfect reflection of trends," Bonney says. "Instead, it's like, 'This is important because it's my mom's platter' or 'This is important because it was Julia's mom's.' I feel like I've never been so happy and settled in a house." Theirs features a neutral palette (save a cushy hot-pink sofa that movers had to saw in half to get it through the door) and walls accented sparingly with handed-down art and friends' illustrations. They apply the same rules to food. The tasty, easy-to-prepare spread included roasted salmon with hearty grain and kale salads and Bonney's family-recipe

mashed potatoes. "Grace makes me look away when she adds the butter," Turshen says. The newlyweds also have a knack for assembling a simpatico group. Guests who hadn't met could spark conversation simply by asking one another what they contributed to the meal. Floral designer Sierra Steifman sat next to Chrissy Beckles, founder of the Sato Project, which rescues stray dogs from Puerto Rico (including Hope), and Chrissy's husband, Bobby, a stuntman. Design*Sponge managing editor Amy Azzarito was near Kari Stuart (Turshen's book agent) and her husband, ceramist Nicholas Newcomb, who fired the dishware. Finally, there were Phin & Phebes ice cream mavens Crista Freeman and Jess Eddy, whose vanilla-cinnamon topped the bread pudding. Then Turshen and Bonney traded places, everyone helped themselves to seconds, and, as at most of their parties, the conversation went on for hours.

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