

Politically Correct

Washington D.C. may connote power-plus but the lifestyle is stylish and down-to-earth

Time is precious in this hyper city, but its resourceful residents know just how to make space for family and friends.

- There's a thoughtful, albeit casual approach to entertaining. It's more about having friends than how sophisticated a meal is. Susan Gage, one of the most popular caterers around says, "Actually we're kind of homey; we don't like a catered look. We like to do sweet touches (like her charming sugar cookie place cards) to show the people who come that they're special." And her food draws raves as well.
- There are lots of gardens in this city and garden parties are really big. Plus, since Washington enjoys a long spring and fall, "people really use them as a room," says Rose Bartlett, who with her husband, Michael designs these green havens. She likes a mix of flowers, trees, a small herb area and a nice level space where kids can play and grownups entertain.
- Govinda Gallery has a reputation for cutting-edge exhibitions and has a devoted following for such shows as "The Cool & The Crazy," images of punk, and more recently, "Thelonious Monk's World," on the jazz icon's circle in the late Fifties.
- Glen Echo Park is no longer a full-fledged amusement park but its splendid, fairytale-like carousel, always freshly painted, is still going strong and children adore it.
- Raku, an Asian diner on Dupont Circle, is colorful, hip and casual with a menu of Asian street food that diners like to share.
- The Eighteenth Street Lounge draws a lively, mixed crowd to its cozy second floor for talk and drinks. Around 11 p.m. live jazz opens up on the third floor and the crowd grows.



Above, the Asian diner, Raku; left, Govinda Gallery.



Children adore the splendid, fairytale-like carousel in Glen Echo Park.



Clockwise from the left: Susan Gage's fig salad; architect Olivia Demetriou in the Washington weekend uniform—khakis and a baggy shirt; Lenore and George Hemphill's clean, serene loft, a growing alternative to overstuffed interiors; a romantic table setting in Rose and Michael Bartlett's garden.



From top: The Eighteenth Street Lounge; shrimp and pineapple at Raku; Susan Gage's sugar cookie place card.

