

Romantic HOMES

CASUAL
ELEGANCE,
PERSONAL
STYLE



Valentine's Day Issue

*A Month of Celebrating Romance
Annual Roundup of The Romantics:
Women Who Inspire*



The Romantics

Being a romantic doesn't require hearts and flowers or a moon in June. The women featured on these pages know that leading a romantic lifestyle only needs some creative thinking and an appreciation of the simple pleasures. Here, in their own words, are this year's romantics.

SHELLY KENNEDY

Designer, Drooz Studio

TRADITIONAL ROMANCE MAY include passion, but living a romantic lifestyle is having a passion for life. It is realizing that our lives are hectic, yet we try our best to create something special every day.

It is planning a date night with your husband, even if it is just on the couch. Packing your child's lunch and adding a special treat. Wrapping a gift and using that "just perfect" scrap of ribbon you've saved for years. It's making the time for an afternoon break to sift through a pile of favorite old magazines.

I like to celebrate—I love get-togethers with family chaos and parties filled with friends. Laughing is also very romantic. It is all in the "little things" for me, as I am a detail kind of girl, something I've been ever since I was a child. I love to accessorize—the purse, the jewels, the sunglasses and the coiffed hair—all neatly buttoned up and ready to go. I appreciate things "just so," which includes paying attention to those special things that make my loved ones and me happy, and then doing it.

I take pride in my surroundings, noticing the pretty things, unusual things, functional finds, meaningful trinkets and things full of style. However, I truly prefer inexpensive items, such as a vintage purse or thrift store fabric. Somehow they mean more as they are unique and hold stories from their past lives. They feel comfortable.

Leading a romantic lifestyle can be as basic as being present and conscious. I try to remind myself: "Pay attention...this is your life...make it sparkle."

