

PARTY MANNERS: WHO'S WHO OF PLANNERS

Few decorators, it seems, specialise in entertainments. I was surprised to find how few of even the best-known firms had ever designed for a party or special event.

**After carrying out some research,
I would recommend any of the following
ten professional decorators to design your expensive party**



Mary Fox Linton, 35 Elystan St, SW3 (01-581 2188). Michael Fish of the Embassy night club asked them to do the Embassy's Doubles Bar at the Butterfly Ball on July 13, one of about 32 tents in the middle of Berkeley Square. The two designers, Derek Frost and Mary Fox Linton, wanted to make their tent look different from the others, most of which they guessed (correctly) would be decorated with flowers and butterflies. As it turned out, right opposite the Embassy tent was Olga Deterding's, decorated with flowers and lime branches from Pulbrook & Gould. By contrast, the Embassy tent was in silver PVC (walls and tablecloths), with red, pink, black and white muslin and casement draping, and the 'butterflies' were naked white androgynous mannequins borrowed from Harvey Nichols, four hanging from the ceiling and one on each of the two tent poles, each tasselled with strips of silver foil. Another reason for using silver was the proximity of the disco dance floor with its strobe lighting and strings of coloured light-ropes like rigging. The disco light, as planned, bounced into the Embassy tent and flashed on the silver.

The silver PVC tablecloths were much remarked on. Derek Frost got the idea from a dinner party where black PVC had been used. 'It's very effective and only about £1.50 a metre. You can cut it with a Stanley knife.'