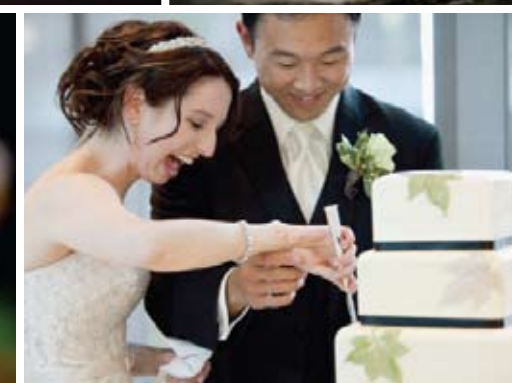


dreamy décor

COMBINING ELEGANCE AND TRADITION WITH THEIR OWN TASTES, THESE BRIDES AND GROOMS CREATED EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES FOR THEIR GUESTS (AND THEMSELVES!)

BY JENNA ZARK



Funfetti & Fusion

Laura Main & Peter Rhee

LAURA MAIN GREW UP ON A FARM, while her groom Peter Rhee lived in the city. In honor of their opposites-attract backgrounds, the ceremony was held in an old stone barn and the reception in the contemporary Rochester Art Center, where round tables alternated with longer ovals.

The couple wanted to fuse the groom's Korean heritage with classic American culture, and settled on a palette of bright green with black and white. Everyday Bouquets florist Lynelle Webb-O'Neil grows most of her flowers and specializes in native foliage, so she used oat grass and stones to border a centerpiece of bamboo, snapdragons, and gunnii eucalyptus in her large arrangements, while populating the smaller ones with green lisianthus, Kermit poms, bupleurum and white wax flower. Bud vases on the long tables sported alternating flowers including Mt. Fuji viburnum, hydrangea and roses.

Laura wanted textured tablecloths, so wedding planner Nancy Flottmeyer found white ones with black flocking from Linen Effects for the round tables. Platinum satin from Tabletoppers covered the long tables, and "we used varying heights of floating candles on those tables to add warmth," Flottmeyer says.

Menus and place cards were part of a paper suite illustrated with the bride's and groom's initials, while the menu included alternating dishes of Asian and American cuisine. The squared cake from Daube's Bakery was embellished with leaves over a white fondant icing to evoke the outdoors, and guests received mints made by the bride's mother as party favors after the reception.

At the rehearsal dinner, Peter indulged his weakness for Funfetti cupcakes, courtesy of a friend. Afterwards, Flottmeyer created an outdoor theater by hanging a sheet from a tree outside the barn, and guests sat on blankets to watch a movie about the bride and groom, complete with cute bags of popcorn.

Get the Look:

CEREMONY: Mayowood Stone Barn
RECEPTION: Rochester Art Center
WEDDING PLANNER AND STATIONER: Weddings by Nancy
LINEN: Linen Effects and Tabletoppers
FLOWERS: Everyday Bouquets
CATERING: Catering by Design
CAKE: Daube's Bakery
PHOTOGRAPHY: olivejuicestudios.com

Classic Eccentricities

M.E. & Chris Kirwan

"A WEDDING MAY BE ABOUT A BRIDE AND groom, but it's also a thank-you to everyone who comes," says M.E. Kirwan, who strolled down a grassy aisle strewn with rose petals and bells of Ireland outside her parents' Wayzata home. Kelly green, the bride's favorite color, accented both ceremony and reception; cucumber- and lime-water were offered after the ceremony, and place cards were "planted" in pots of baby's tears. The couple chose the Lafayette Club for its warmth, and Arts and Flowers placed floral arrangements high and low around the room to give it a summer-garden look. Hanging iron armatures draped in Italian ruscus with votive candles perched on top added to the elegance as guests dined in Chiavari chairs with vertically knotted sashes on the backs.

Circles were an ever-present motif to mirror the round emblem the couple chose as their logo: Wreaths of Cymbidium orchids graced every third chair at the ceremony, and tall Pilsner glass vases at the reception were lined with halved limes.

"It was all about color and texture. The limes were part of that," says wedding planner Rita Swanson of Premier Planning Services. The vases held blue hydrangeas, pale pink peonies, and bells of Ireland, which also lined the satin-edged napkins. Silver chargers on tablecloths with an overlay of sheer white rings balanced the elevated flower arrangements.

While the cake's ribbons and flowers matched the wedding colors, Country Cake Cupboard designed the second-tier ribbon and the icing florets to mimic flowers on the bride's dress. Programs were designed by Press Perfect to be "a little eccentric, a little classic," Kirwan says. She found a basket and attached ribbons to add a graceful touch, as yet another way of thanking guests for sharing the couple's special day.

Get the Look:

CEREMONY: Private residence

RECEPTION: Lafayette Club

WEDDING PLANNER: Premier Planning Services

FLOWERS: Arts & Flowers Design Studio

CAKE: Country Cake Cupboard

CEREMONY RENTALS: Après Party and Tent Rental

RECEPTION RENTALS: Linen Effects

STATIONERY: Press Perfect

CALLIGRAPHY: Rosann Konieczny

PHOTOGRAPHY: La Vie Photography





Reverse Magic

Amily McNeilus & Aaron Tarasenko

WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU WANT A CANDLELIT wedding under the moonlight? Feed your guests first, of course. Amily McNeilus and Aaron Tarasenko married under an exquisite pergola in Amily's mother's garden, and because the ceremony was held at night, everything had to be done in reverse. First order of business? The structure had to be lit, so guests could see the ceremony. Wedding planner Erin Steinlage from Mother of the Bride worked with Olive Juice Studios to place lights provided by Après Party and Tent Rental.

Next, Wisteria florists arranged 1,500 roses and 150 hydrangeas around the pergola, attached in sections with zip-tie boards, says florist Russell Toscano. Since the bride wanted "black and white, not a color that would be trendy and go out of style," Wisteria opted for white, romantic arrangements of various heights at the reception. White hydrangeas, roses, and spray roses sprouted from faceted crystal candlestem vases on the tables, and hydrangeas—a favorite flower for the bride—were also prominent in the head table's 42-inch vase, which included roses, peonies, and Phalenopsis orchids. Smaller vases in crackle-stemmed glass vases or glass bowls were filled with a single kind of flower—sweet peas, tulips, hydrangea, or white spray roses—and scattered around the room.

After hors d'oeuvres, guests feasted on a vegetarian dinner from Catering by Design in peaked Century tents draped by Tom Bayer, owner of Tables and Tents Rental Co. Tents were provided by Après, along with crystal chandeliers, mahogany Chiavari chairs, tablecloths with shimmery organza overlays, square lotus plates, and Zenith flatware. Catering by Design created a scrumptious dessert menu, including tiny strawberry shortcakes and cheesecakes. Candy was the bride's idea, procured at online sites like candywarehouse.com and placed in clear glass jars from Hobby Lobby to add—what else—fun and zest.

Get the Look:

CEREMONY AND RECEPTION: Private residence
 WEDDING PLANNER: Mother of the Bride
 FLOWERS: Wisteria Design Studio
 DINNER AND DESSERTS: Catering by Design
 TENT, TABLE ACCESSORIES AND CHANDELIERS: Après Party and Tent Rental
 TENT DRAPING: Tables and Tents Rental Company
 PHOTOGRAPHER: olivejuicestudios.com

Sticks & Stones

April Hamlin &
Christopher Lautenschlager

APRIL HAMLIN AND CHRISTOPHER LAUTENSCHLAGER shared a vision that was so strong they decided it would be best to take on all the planning themselves, from beginning to end. Christopher chose The Depot, a repurposed train station in Minneapolis, for their ceremony and reception site, and the couple conceptualized a décor that would be “Asian-inspired and spare, but not too stylized,” April says. She has always been a fan of sticks and rocks as a design element, and hired Pam McCarthy-Kern at Fleurissima to create centerpieces with a stick-rock motif.

McCarthy-Kern painted manzanita branches with a high-gloss black and attached white Cymbidium orchids and clusters of pearls and rhinestones. She placed the arrangement in a black cylindrical vase set into a larger square ceramic vase. A mix of votive candles, black river rock and iridescent clear glass stones added sparkle at the base of the arrangement. Altar flowers contained curly willow branches, also painted black, with peonies, roses, tulips and orchids mixed with monstera, aspidistra and sand palm leaves.

The striking place cards were created by the couple with images shot by Christopher, an adept photographer, at sites around town that had meaning for the couple. To create an emblem, the couple asked printing company Lavish to place their names inside a circular pattern from the Emily collection by Abby Jean Press. The emblem was used on all printed materials, as well as on the cupcakes in the form of edible rice paper. Baker Gretchen Sieleni's cake was distinguished by Swiss dots and bordered by black satin ribbons, Cymbidium orchids and lemon leaves. For tableware, Hamlin and Lautenschlager chose rhinestone-studded black chargers, black napkins and white chair covers with black satin sashes from Linen Effects. “Black and white can be kind of dead,” April points out. “You need sparkle or embellishment to deliver that sense of celebration.”

Get the Look:

CEREMONY AND RECEPTION: The Depot

FLOWERS: Fleurissima Design Studio

EMBLEM PRINTERS: Lavish Inc.

CAKE AND CUPCAKES: Gretchen Sieleni

LINENS AND TABLEWARE: Linen Effects

PHOTOGRAPHER: Lace/Hanky Photography

