



#WEDSPIRATION

The most fabulous planners, florists, photographers and more share their best ideas, from drinking-glass chandeliers to drawer-knob escort card holders. *By* EUSTACIA HUEN



Featuring: Alison Hotchkiss • Barb Salzman • Elizabeth Messina • Liza Lubell

Lynn Easton Andrews • Mindy Weiss • Preston Bailey • Tara Guérard • Todd Fiscus • Yifat Oren

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EASTON EVENTS



*Lynn Easton
Andrews*

EVENT DESIGNER

South Carolina (843) 822-4885
Virginia (434) 293-4898
New York (212) 980-9100
EastonEvents.com

Lynn Easton Andrews always manages to combine a hint of sweetness with timeless elegance. Her ideas feel fresh but still find a place with brides who describe themselves as classic. Andrews has a soft touch. When you think “pretty wedding,” you think Easton Events.



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The Details

1 “We love texture and layers to give a fresh take on tabletops,” says Andrews, who refutes the rule of excluding scented florals from the dinner table. 2 Connecting to the bride’s BHLDN (Anthropologie’s wedding shop) style, Andrews came up with a sophisticated and whimsical arrangement of escort cards on vintage mismatched drawer knobs. 3 A floral collar was a fitting accessory for Lexie, a key family member who walked down the aisle with the bridesmaids. 4 These mini cotton-candy sticks (cocreated with Peter Callahan) not only kept the party going, but also proved that fanciful snacks are the ultimate conclusion to a great night. 5 An antique silver Jaguar, with the couple’s gifts filling its trunk, realized the bride’s dream of a classic, fairy-tale exit. 6 For an old-world wedding, invitations letterpress-printed on linen (yes, linen) coordinated perfectly with the linen tablecloths. >>



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HOLLAND PHOTO ARTS; JEN FARELLO PHOTOGRAPHY; ERIC KELLEY PHOTOGRAPHY; JOSE VILLA PHOTOGRAPHY; ADAM BARNES FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY; PATRICIA LYONS PHOTOGRAPHY

Festive Exit ▶

After seeing the bride’s flirtatious getaway frock, Andrews knew this colorful confetti flurry was the perfect way to cap off the day.



HATCH CREATIVE STUDIO



Barb Salzman

EVENT & FLORAL
DESIGNER

New York (212) 679-6378
HatchCreativeStudio.com

With an eclectic and out-of-the-box aesthetic, Barb Salzman and her team bring a unique look to design with a thoughtful sense of style and laid-back elegance.

1

The Details

1 Instead of using flowers, Salzman and her team decorated Tribeca Rooftop with candles, creating a magical glow around the couple and officiant. Although the wedding was postponed a few weeks from its original date (two days after Hurricane Sandy), Salzman didn't let a single detail fall through the cracks. 2 These mailbox displays were made to house the personal letters (which doubled as escort cards) written by the couple to every wedding guest. 3 The team at Hatch Creative Studio often jokes about "putting a bird on it" (a reference to *Portlandia*). Serendipity smiled when Salzman's best friend married a man with the last name Bird. So she added two feathers to the bride's wintry bouquet!



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◀ *New Ideas*

What can you do with five talliths? In Salzman's case, make a one-of-a-kind installation like this deconstructed huppah! (And did we mention that she came up with this idea at 1 a.m. the night before the wedding?) >>



Mindy Weiss

WEDDING & PARTY
PLANNER

California (310) 205-6000
New York (212) 290-1000
MindyWeiss.com

A self-proclaimed “flea-market-aholic,” Mindy Weiss is truly a chameleon in the world of wedding design, coming up with creative ideas for events that are everything from modern to vintage, rustic and luxe.



MINDY WEISS PARTY CONSULTANTS



HEAD SHOT: JIG WEDDINGS; CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ELIZABETH MESSINA; JIG WEDDINGS; JOY-MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY; YITZAK DAI; LEFT PHOTOGRAPHY: JIG WEDDINGS



The Details

1 What resonates with Weiss most here is the feeling of the extension of home, expressed by a wood-plank floor and a fabric treatment that brought the ceiling down to create a more intimate vibe. 2 True to Weiss's love for all things unique, these escort cards were made of different shades of wood and hand-calligraphed with guests' names. The table numbers were embossed in sealing wax. 3 You know you've found the right wedding planner when you ask for orchid chains hanging down the aisle and she knows to add twinkle lights to make them sparkle. 4 Proving that wedding design is truly an art, Weiss hung roses upside down over the escort cards to start the party in style. 5 “I can never get enough clustered disco balls,” says Weiss, who believes that the magic of them together makes any after-party a success! >>



Luxe Touches

Who would've thought that a magnificent event with caged chandeliers, luscious floral displays and gold chairs could get even more fabulous? We love how the fabric tenting adds warmth and glamour at the same time.





*Alison
Hotchkiss*

EVENT DESIGNER
California (415) 567-7605
Connecticut (203) 807-5223
AlisonEvents.com

Embracing Californian style at its best, Alison Hotchkiss is a two-time author (on wedding planning and destination weddings) well known for creating weddings that are whimsically modern, bohemian and not-at-all traditional.



The Details

1 This type-A couple pulled a complete 180: They got married, traveled around the world and then finally threw this alfresco sunset celebration. Here, Hotchkiss created a whimsical look with soft-green tones and succulents. **2** A mix of colorful benches, architectural chairs and mod cushions set an easy retro vibe, but the process was anything but. When the destination affair (which was scheduled to take place during the 2009 swine flu outbreak) had to be rescheduled due to travel restrictions, Hotchkiss was left with only nine days to completely replan it! **3** For an adorably nerdy couple with rural roots (he's an astrophysicist; she's a professor), Hotchkiss decorated a barn with flower-filled beakers and invited guests to take a square-dancing break on a cozy haystack. **4** Guests wrote well-wishes on antique skis, which were hung above the escort cards. **5** Sporty and bundled, but totally chic, this winter bride struck a pretty pose on skis. >>

Inspired Themes

Your wedding is the time to run with your passions, like this couple, who had a "Beatles go to India"-themed wedding.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MEG SMITH; THAYER ALLYSON GOWDY (2); JESSE LEAKE PHOTOGRAPHY; ADI NEVO PHOTOGRAPHS; OPPOSITE: JESSE LEAKE PHOTOGRAPHY; HEAD SHOT: ALLAN ZEEDA PHOTOGRAPHY

ALISON EVENTS PLANNING + DESIGN

PEARTREE FLOWERS



Liza Lubell

FLORAL DESIGNER

New York (917) 575-6633
PeartreeFlowers.com

With a passion for horticulture, Liza Lubell translates her landscaping experience into creating loosely bound arrangements that are effortlessly composed yet organically elegant.

The Details

1 A classic example of the kind of work Lubell does, she made this wild yet sweet bouquet for a botanical garden wedding. But in order to make it happen, she actually drove five hours to buy her favorite dahlias and took forsythia straight out of her mother's garden.

2 "I'm trying to bring the hip corsage back!" declares Lubell, who sees her updated interpretation of beautiful ribbons and flowers as anything but boring. **3** Admitting that deep purple could be a potentially challenging color to work with, Lubell put together this winter arrangement with subtler purple flowers blended with purple-hued foliage, and then finished it off with a classic, dark urn.



◀ *Surprise Elements*

Buy a lemon tree (just like Lubell did!) and clip a few lemons to jazz up an arrangement of narcissus, ranunculus and poppies (and more), like this one. "The bonus," she says, is that "now I have a lemon tree in my studio!" >>

YIFAT OREN & ASSOCIATES



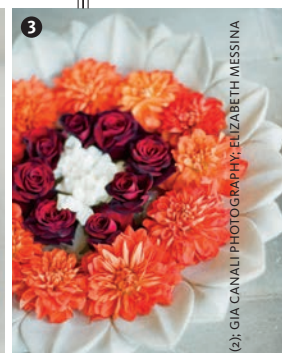
1

The Details

1 Believing that floral displays should never be mundane, Oren covered this custom wooden canopy with summer florals in a bright color palette. 2 Seasoned, dried chickpeas were served family-style in custom wooden boxes for a homey take on appetizers. 3 Oren believes that the best parties are ones rich with detail. Guests should constantly be discovering little flourishes, like these flower-filled marble bowls, for example. 4 To give a Jewish and Hindu couple a “beautiful, Western home-garden wedding with a twist of Indian culture,” Oren says, she used batik fabric table runners.



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Yifat Oren

EVENT PRODUCER
 California (323) 969-8656
 New York (917) 601-3630
 Florida (561) 568-8252
 YifatOren.com

With an innate sense of style and an ability to cultivate long-standing trends, Yifat Oren draws on a broad range of experience in floral design, lighting and technical production to create events that are luscious, naturalistic and unforgettable.



4



Twists on Nature

A grand, four-foot-tall arrangement can provide the warmest welcome atop a spread of escort cards. >>

HEAD SHOT: LARA PORZAK. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GIA CANALI PHOTOGRAPHY; ELIZABETH MESSINA (2), GIA CANALI PHOTOGRAPHY; ELIZABETH MESSINA (3)



Tara Guérard

EVENT DESIGNER

South Carolina (843) 577-5006

New York (646) 329-6258

TaraGuerardSoiree.com

As the Southeast's leading event designer, Tara Guérard of Tara Guérard Soirée works with many traditional brides. But whether it's a rustic wedding or a sleek affair, she excels at combining warm southern hospitality with contemporary flair, making every event impeccably chic.



The Details

1 Admittedly a little “gaga” over lighting fixtures, Guérard played around with warm lighting in an all-white champagne lounge. **2** Having found this wallpaper that was almost identical to the damask on the couple's invitations, Guérard used it to cover a 40-foot-long custom bar. **3** Knowing that menu cards are often overlooked, she made a ghost menu etched on acrylic that actually ended up being a conversation starter. **4** Renowned for her unexpected touches, Guérard surprised guests with a navy-and-champagne-checkerboard pattern on the tented ceiling, instead of on the dance floor.

5 We love how Guérard added this antique lion's head door knocker (something she fell in love with during a book-signing tour) to the escort card display to incorporate the couple's lion monogram. **6** One may wonder if a dance floor can really be a reflection of your style, but after seeing this logo, it certainly can! >>

Lucite Love ▶

Guérard, who says she loves Lucite, used the material to transform these covered boxwoods into creative side tables.



ELIZABETH MESSINA PHOTOGRAPHY



1

The Details

1 "The right light is one of the most important elements of a great photograph," says Messina, who proves her point here impeccably. 2 Because she's a collector herself, Messina's love for crowns naturally evolved to grace her work. See how she highlights the delicate beauty of a lace veil with a floral wreath? 3 Knowing that less is more, Messina frames images with minimal distraction, like this one where a model poses on a vintage bed.

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Elizabeth Messina

PHOTOGRAPHER

California (310) 779-9151
KisstheGroom.com
ElizabethMessina.com

Soft, intimate and decidedly feminine, the work of photographer Elizabeth Messina, also the author of *The Luminous Portrait*, hinges on beautiful artistic photographs that often have a sense of sweetness.



Boudoir Photography

Tastefully alluring, intimate and truthful, a high-quality boudoir portrait is a unique heirloom. >>



Todd Fiscus

EVENT DESIGNER

Texas (214) 749-0400
ToddEvents.com

The brilliant mastermind behind some of the most awe-inspiring and luxurious events, Todd Fiscus demonstrates that a plethora of vibrant, creative and over-the-top ideas—when flawlessly executed—can be ever-so-welcoming and decadently tasteful.



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TODD EVENTS



The Details

1 Unfazed by the space's small entryway, Fiscus transformed the tent into a mini secret garden with a 90-foot banquette and 9-foot chandeliers in birdcages. When asked about guest reactions, Fiscus replied, "They gasped."
2 Poor weather may have ruined Fiscus's idea of an open-air dance floor, but he spent two days before the event decorating a tent with lemon leaves to make this exceptional canopy.
3 Highlighting bright flowers while maintaining the elegance of a white tent can be a challenge, but Fiscus succeeded with soft-colored blooms and vases covered in thousands of button mums.
4 Incorporating the medallion pattern from the back of the rental chairs into the menu design was so seamless that a guest asked if the chairs were custom-made!
5 Always aware of the importance of lighting, Fiscus hung 16 vintage lightbulbs for this rustic rehearsal dinner. >>

Beautiful Light ▶

To create amazing light, one of Fiscus's favorite ideas is to scatter candles of assorted heights. Try a 30-inch candlestick like this one!



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: STEVE WRUBEL PHOTOGRAPHY; KARLSCH PHOTOGRAPHY (4); OPPOSITE: STEVE WRUBEL PHOTOGRAPHY; HEADSHOT: KARLSCH PHOTOGRAPHY



PRESTON BAILEY DESIGNS



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Preston Bailey
CELEBRITY EVENT
DESIGNER

New York (212) 691-6777
PrestonBailey.com

Inspired by the natural world, Preston Bailey is best known for his out-of-this-world, theatrical floral installations. He's also an author, tabletop accessory designer (launching this year) and founder of a series of floral design courses. Wow!



1

The Details

- 1 Have you ever seen anything like this? Pineapples (a symbol of hospitality) constructed from cheery sunflowers made for the perfect welcome. Says Bailey, "Together, two ordinary things become fun conversation pieces."
- 2 The details are important, but they don't need to be expensive, explains Bailey, who's mesmerized by simple supplies like yarn, felt and paper.
- 3 Bailey created these centerpieces with moss and tropical leaves inspired by the Panama rain forest.



3



Party Vibe

Drinking-glass chandeliers, blue lighting and a fabric checkerboard ceiling. Need we say more?