

The weddings of the eighties: Tradition blends with innovation

Changing social, economic trends affect marriage patterns, planning

The bride of today knows what she wants. Whether she walks down a long aisle in an antique Victorian gown, or is married in a tailored suit of her favorite color, she is planning her wedding at a time when couples are expressing whom they are by the way in which they choose to celebrate their marriage.

The weddings of the '80s are unique in that, although there is a trend toward the traditional, at the same time there is a strong tendency to cast convention aside.

It is no longer unusual, for instance, for a bride, being married for the first time at the age of 35, to opt for the large traditional ceremony and long white gown that were once considered appropriate only for a much younger woman.

But today's bride often comes to her marriage with many years of education and career behind her. A lot more savvy and sophisticated than a young bride of 21, her tastes are more mature and her direction more defined.

She may be an investment banker, a doctor or head of her own small business. But whatever her career goals may be, they are most likely as important a consideration in the marriage as those of her husband.

While it is an advantage to have more defined goals before marriage, so that both people have a clearer sense of whom they are and what their needs may be, at the same time, it means that there may be a greater need for compromise.

If it is a two career marriage, chores will need to be shared and perhaps an extra effort made to spend quality time together despite two often-hectic schedules.

It is less and less likely that the bride of today will marry the boy next door, or even a boy from the same town, as was the norm in the past. For, as the average age of brides increases steadily, it is more

and more probable that she will meet her husband at college or on the job.

Chances are she's from Iowa and he's from California, an increasingly common situation which has brought about innovative ideas in wedding planning, such as the weekend-wedding. At this sort of wedding, events such as barbecues and sightseeing trips are planned for guests who travel from near and far to celebrate with the bride and groom for an entire weekend!

What this says about the new trend in weddings for the '80s is that more than ever before they are a personal reflection of whom the bride and groom really are, reflecting their tastes, attitudes and dreams.

Today, whether the couple is 19 or 45, there is a new confidence, freedom and ease in the way in which they choose to celebrate their marriage.

Whether it's a large, formal, traditional wedding, an outdoor picnic wedding in the country, a small intimate ceremony followed by cocktails and elegant hors d'oeuvre, or a big weekend bash, today the choices are endless.

What this means is that, with the freedom of expression and the unlimited imaginativeness that characterizes the marriages of the '80s, today the wedding of your dreams is more possible than ever before.

Fashion flair for the wedding day



DAYTIME WEDDING ELEGANCE. The eminent French designer, Pierre Cardin, creates a happy blending of propriety and fashion for the men in the wedding party with his new Etolie stroller and cutaway. These are tailored for good looking comfort in grey Dacron/wool with definitive shoulders, upwept peak lapels, worn with pleated striped trousers and unique double-breasted vests. Diamond patterned neckwear and white shirts are styled differently for the best man, left, and the groom. The bride's gown by Michele Piccione is a froth of taffeta, pleated ruffles and hand beading on a bodice of Venise lace.

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