

Today's bridal gowns, contemporary or classic, reflect personal preferences

Lavish formal dinner—or intimate brunch?

Mendelsohn's "Wedding March"—or John Denver's "Perhaps Love?"

Traditional gown—or trendy attire? When it comes to weddings, it's the personal choices that make the day a memorable one.

According to Michele Piccione, Design Director for Alfred Angelo Bridals, "The options are endless, especially in bridal attire. A bride may choose to wear anything that makes her feel special. Styles today reflect the wide age span of brides and the diversity of their taste."



The bride may be 18 or 38, into ruffles or ultra-sophisticated, attended by one relative or surrounded by an entourage of friends.

She may wear traditional white, flattering ivory—or be just as beautiful in

soft pink. The gown may be any length, from calf-grazing to trailing a train that goes to all lengths to impress.

"The wide variety of looks for fall '88 ensures that each bride will be unique," says Piccione.

For understated elegance, she may choose to be married in a gown of luxurious silk satin, simply embellished with pearls on the bodice and sleeves, and grandly bowed in back above the train.

For all-out glamour, she may choose a gown with extravagant dolman sleeves and a slim, slithery skirt with a high-low hemline.

The ingenue bride—or one who wants to look the part—can select a gown with puffed sleeves, tiny waist and swirling skirt with elaborate train.

"But gowns for fall '88 do share a few key fashion elements: Bareness, billowy sleeves, bustles, bows and beading," says Piccione, "all designed to flatter the bride and enhance her own personal charm."

• *Shoulder-baring necklines* and deep plunging backs are testimony to the new

awareness of bareness. Demure brides can choose gowns that cover the décolletage with filmy illusion netting.

• *Sleeves are the fashion focus*—whether shirred, pleated, ruffled or sparkled with elaborate beaded detail.

• *Bows*—often oversized and embroidered—show off a shoulder, hug a waist, perch above a train or define a flirtatious butterfly bustle.

• *Beads* cascade from high collars, are etched onto bodices, twinkle along a hem, even extend the length of the train.

"While the fabric choice is as varied as the styling," says Piccione, "satin is a favorite for fall. Rich and luminous, it comes in all weights, including opulent Italian and French satin, delicate silk satin and fluid satin charmeuse."

Taffeta, all-over lace, and satin and lace combinations are other popular options.

"Whatever style gown the bride chooses," says Piccione, "she can be sure she will make a personal statement and cherish the uniqueness of her special day."

Today's newlyweds exchange traditional gifts of gold jewelry

The word for weddings today is "traditional," when referring to the popularity of elegant clothes, age-old ritual and a general spirit of nostalgia.

What's new is the way meaningful ceremony is combined with modern nuances to give today's couple room for imagination.

A perfect example of this trend is the custom of exchanging wedding day gifts of gold between bride and groom.

A symbol of their lifelong commitment, gold jewelry is the sentimental choice among couples who want a remembrance long after the wedding day is over.

A gift of gold the bride can wear on her special day is a treasured memento. Earrings are the most popular choice because they enhance her bridal headdress, whether she wears an elaborate veil or a simple bow in her hair.

Oversized designs like giant brush-strokes or waves sweep upwards and contour the face with strong fluid lines. Similarly, faceted gold dangles in teardrop or disc shapes catch the light and shimmer as she cascades down the aisle.

Depending on her bridal dress, a gold

necklace or bracelet may add the right amount of romance. Gold jewelry with the look and feel of embroidery appears dazzling against her lacy gown.

Consider a braided or tapestry etched floral bangle bracelet. Or, draw attention to an off-the-shoulder or sweetheart neckline by presenting her with a row of gold petals dangling from a strand of dainty seed pearls.

The groom also wants to look his best. A gift of gold cufflinks and matching studs will add dash to his formal tux or wedding day suit and make him feel dressed "to the nines."

Look for clean, simple shapes—either shiny ovals or textured ribbed cubes to express his classic style. For the fashion plate, a yellow and pink gold link or ID bracelet are both gifts that symbolize your love.

Something old, something new, or a combination of both is the trend in wedding styles these days. For the modern day bride and groom, the choice to design their special day and include meaningful ritual gives them a solid foundation on which to build their lives together.

Make your own checklist



THINGS TO DO IMMEDIATELY

—Engage the clergyman. (If he wishes to confer with you and your husband-to-be, make arrangements for an appointment).

—Make arrangements for the wedding ceremony and reception.

—Select your wedding color scheme. (You will have to know your color scheme before you contact attendants).

—Choose your trousseau. (Make an inventory of what you have and then list what you will need).

—Select your attendants.

—Order stationery supplies: Invitations to the wedding; invitations to the reception; wedding announcements; and "Thank you" note paper.

Your local printer, stationer or jeweller will gladly advise you concerning your stationery needs. If

possible, you should have invitations in the mail about four weeks before the wedding.

THINGS TO DO WELL IN ADVANCE

Review all plans to date. Consolidate groom's invitation list with your list. Address and mail invitations.

Three weeks in advance if possible order wedding cake. Choose and have fitting of your wedding gown. Many stores have a bridal counsellor, often at no charge. Arrange for refreshments.

A caterer will be extremely helpful here. Make arrangements for a photographer to take wedding pictures. Make seating plans for the church.

Plan receiving line formation also. Order bouquets for bridesmaids, maid of honor. Arrange for decora-

tions for the wedding ceremony and reception. Consult your florist for help. See about singers and musicians. Set the date for the wedding rehearsal.

A FEW DAYS BEFORE

Review all plans again. Keep up with Gift Acknowledgement Notes. Failure to send "Thanks" is inexcusable. Have final fitting of wedding gown and see that all clothes have arrived and fit. Make plans for display of gifts. Send wedding announcement to newspapers.

Most newspapers like to get information ahead of time and will not publish prior to wedding date. Photographs must be sent well in advance of wedding. Invite house guests, if any, and arrange accommodations for out-of-town guests. Work out transportation for (Cont'd on Page 12)

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