

Wedding



Bridal dress trends point to simple, clean designs

By RENA GALANIS

The bride is most certainly the cen-

tre of attention in a wedding party and choosing a gown is one of the most important elements in the plan of the event.

Whether formal or informal, the choices are many and the price range is great. After determining a budget the best thing to do is a little research to select the stores that may be considered within your spending range.

"If your budget is about \$1,000 you don't want to walk into a store in which prices start at double that amount," says Dianne Fuller of Patricia's Bridal Boutique on Washington Street.

Once a spending budget is given to the staff at Patricia's, they then bring out dresses within that range for viewing by the customer. There is no rack shopping. The atmosphere is relaxed, the customer just sits back while dresses are shown, and emphasis is on finding the ideal design, Fuller says.

Current trends include sweetheart necklines, matte silk skirts, and very simple styles.

In fact, clean lines and understatedness is preferred to heavy beading and ostentatious designs, says Rena Solomon of Markville Bridal in the Markville Shopping Centre.

"The key to getting a good dress is to get a dress that is comfortable to wear in right now," she says. "Look for more comfortable wear, soft fabrics."

However, the puffy sleeves, long trains, and ruffles are passe for the moment. The most popular styles have a string of pearl beading at the neckline and perhaps another to emphasize the waist. Rosettes have replaced bows at the waist, and no train at all is now the norm.

Small or medium crinolines better complement these classic designs,

Solomon advises.

In terms of color, eggshell is the top choice with electric whites a little "too bright" for most brides, Fuller says. Veils are now available in three shades to go with silk, diamond white, whites and ivory.

Furthermore, closed necklines have taken the plunge. Off-the-shoulder styles, and V-necks along with the ever popular sweetheart are the biggest attractors.

"These necklines tend to be more flattering than the closed designs," Fuller emphasizes. "They're romantic, look great on someone with a full bust, and they elongate the neck."

Experts say shopping should start a year in advance because most dresses take about four to five months to arrive from the manufacturer.

For more information call Patricia's Bridal Boutique at 905-294-4054 and Markville Bridal at 905-477-0823.



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