

Extraordinary



Celebrations!

by Susan Spindler



LET THE WEDDING PLANNING BEGIN!

When planning any event or wedding think of it as a movie production. There is the budgeting, staging, script, players, and no doubt drama and improvisation!



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Creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for guests and allowing the hostess to enjoy every moment is the key! On the wedding day, families need to be enjoying their guests, not worrying what is to happen next.



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December, traditionally is a slow month for weddings, but is by far the most popular month for engagements, surprisingly beating out Valentine's Day! Maybe it is all the emotion of the holidays and gathering of family and friends at this time of year that makes it so popular as well as year-end bonuses, which help to splurge on the diamond engagement ring.

The wedding industry has put its full weight behind the notion of the December proposals. Bridal magazines publish special holiday issues in January. Web sites devoted to weddings list ways to propose during the holidays as just bending down on one knee is not enough it seems these days.

Let the planning and booking of venue, florist, entertainment, rentals, save the dates, cake design, bridesmaids and their dresses, and invitations, and let's not forget the bridal gown begin! Style and elegance can be achieved at any price provided you know the right things to do.

In a new book called *Wedding Inspirations* by Kimberly Schlegel Whitman, top wedding and event planners from around the country offer advice for the perfect wedding. Kimberly suggests one of the first steps in planning is to find your inspiration and the style of your wedding by putting together an inspiration board. This is a wonderful way to convey to your vendors exactly what you want.

The invitation will visually represent the bride's personal style and convey to guests the level of formality for the nuptials. I like to see the invitations coordinate with the colors the bride has chosen for the wedding. Also, create a sense of continuity by designing all your printed materials the same. Choose the same design, font and paper.

When picking out a cake, make sure to do a tasting with the bakery. It must not only look gorgeous but taste delicious as well.

When deciding on a venue, there are different things to consider. When can you get in to set up? What time do you need to be out? What are the kitchen facilities like? Will you need rentals? The reception and food are the largest part of your budget, so determining the number of guests can play a big part in your venue selection. If you decide to tent, then consider the month of the year for weather purposes. Selecting the music for the ceremony, reception, dinner and dancing are all different chapters of the wedding day that one needs to think about. These are some of the elements that make each wedding unique.

The latest trend is going from strapless gowns to long sleeves in sheer fabric or lace. If wearing high heels is not something a bride is accustomed to, then this is not the day to wear them. Caviar nail polish in mother-of-pearl is a new trend for brides available at Sephora, and definitely has a festive look to it.

The focus for every wedding should be the seriousness of making a lifelong commitment to each other. Do not lose the plot along the way in all planning of this milestone celebration.

Susan Spindler is an interior decorator, event and wedding planner and the Collin County Ambassador to the RSVP Social Calendar (www.rsvpcalendar.com). She has had much experience in wearing her weddings "Director" hat. Enjoy Susan's expert wedding advice in *Wedding Inspirations*.

Susan has been married to her husband Greg for 41 years!



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