

Sophisticated gowns give brides easy elegance

By Sharon Masley
Copyied News Service

It's all in the details this spring, says Yuki, who is based in Japan. Katsura, who is based in New York and designs dresses for Katsura's American market.

"I think there is a real swing toward more modern gowns that aren't quite so traditional," says Yuki, who has designed bridal gowns for Demi Moore and Nadia Comaneci.

The interest this year is in the fabrics, says Moore. Wrap styles appear in Katsura's more layered gowns. A white stretch chiffon sheath with a satin organza overlay ties around the body. The fabric is embroidered with bugle beads and tiny Austrian crystals sewn in a fine woven pattern that glitters with every movement.

Indeed, beadwork and lace are two details many bridal designers do not overlook this spring and summer.

"It's not as heavy as in the past," admits Moore. "It's more unusual and more delicate."

At Vera Wang, there is an "art deco" feeling to her gowns dripping with crystals; Lazaro Perez really has none to worry about this season.

"There is not a sleeve to be found," says Moore, who speaks of a "bare and young feeling" to all the sleeveless gowns available this spring. "There are a ton of strapless dresses out there," he adds.

Other bridal designers are following suit - Tomaszyn's sage lace appliques studied with tiny down one side like shallow steps to an entree. Yukt adds a lightly lounced shawl for bare shoulders to soften the sleek silhouette.

Halters are another elegant detail turning up in spring bridal gowns.

"There is great back interest," says Moore. "It's a nice way to show off when you're walking down the aisle."

Another way to show off your "colors" on this special day is to wear a gown that is out of the ordinary. "The traditional ivory and white gowns are always in style," says Moore. "but the soft off-colors that are not as vivid and more washed out are very interesting."

"Little by little, brides are getting used to color," says Yuki, who creates colorful drama in Katsura's spring collection with metallic wine and leaf ribbons in bronze and platinum on sheer organza with a sprinkling of metallic embroidered flowers.

On the cover: Clasped hands and fresh flowers are symbols of the wedding ceremony in this photo enhanced with a "watercolor" filter. Photo by Monica Marzani.

His and hers chore charts keep it all in order

By Priscilla Lister
Copyied News Service

You want your wedding to be perfect. You expect everyone and everything to perform exactly right. You cannot leave such expectations up to chance.

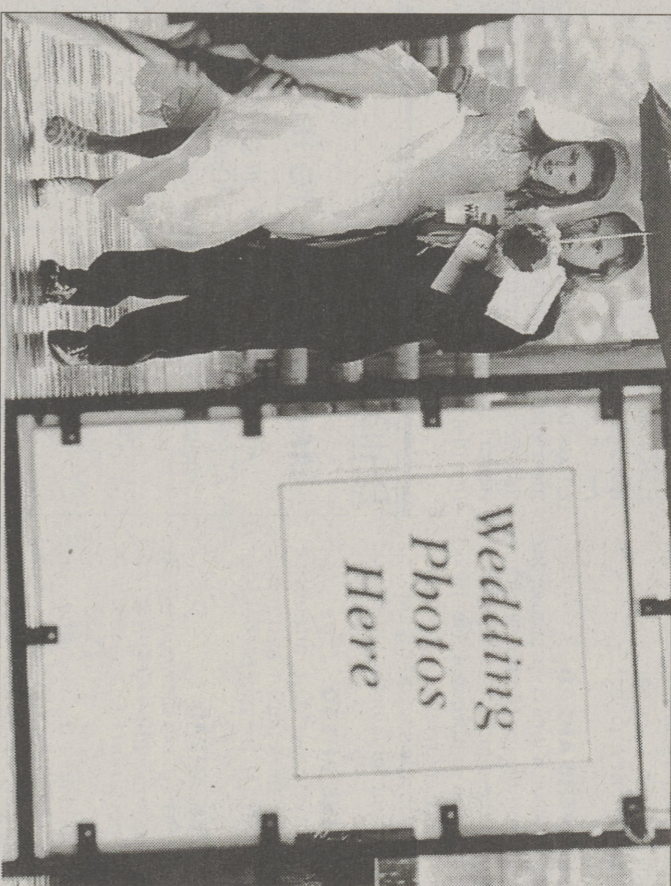
The more carefully you plan, the more you can relax and enjoy the big day," says Allana, Baron in her book, "Simply Your Wedding: How to Make Planning the Big Day an Easy Job" (Reader's Digest).

Break down the details into individual tasks, she advises.

"Any project can seem overwhelming when viewed in its entirety," says Becky Long in her book, "From Something Old to Something New: A Bride's Guide to Something Unique" (Galaxy Publishing).

Make your own timeline. Many brides and grooms will begin planning their wedding at least a year in advance.

"But that isn't always the case," says Leah Ingram in her book "The Portable Wedding Consultant" (Contemporary Books). She begins a timetable six months ahead.



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- Determine officiate who will marry you, meet that person and arrange services.
- Interview wedding consultants.
- Discuss honeymoon possibilities.
- Compromise on your combined guest lists.
- Register for gifts at local stores.
- Choose wedding things.
- Write vows, if personalized.
- Determine sites for wedding ceremony and reception.

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