

Wedding Trends

Glamorous gowns are in, but so are nearby honeymoons and 'green' ceremonies.

Kim Trompeter

Special to the Jewish Times

When it comes to trends in weddings, the phrase “more is more” is in vogue. Tying the knot in an exotic location, embellished mermaid gowns and eco-friendly weddings are what today’s brides seek. With the help of numerous bridal magazines and Web sites, local dress shops and Baltimore’s finest wedding coordinators, we’ve come up with a list of the three hottest trends in weddings.



PHOTO ANDY COOK

Mary Gamberdella and Sharon Tamberino aside the popular fit-and-flare gown.

More Is More

Move over Jennifer Lopez! Brides are embracing the figure-hugging mermaid-style gowns popping up on the runway. Fashion designers like Carolina Herrera, Oscar de la Renta, Elizabeth Fillmore and Ines Di Santo designed several versions of the mermaid style, in addition to introducing lots of silk, taffeta, lace and embellished details in their collections this season. [theknot.com](http://www.theknot.com) labeled the style “The Feminist Movement” because they “highlight the feminine form” and “pay attention to a more structured shape.”

Local bridal shops are carrying the style and area brides love it. Joy Singer of Betsy Robinson’s Bridal Collection on Reisterstown Road says that several brides have come to the shop requesting the style. “Many of our brides have

been asking for a fit-and-flare skirt or a modified A-line dress that fits closer to their body,” says Ms. Singer. She adds,

“The girls are choosing dresses that are lightweight, in either ivory or white this year.”

— Mary Gamberdella

“Lately they’ve been looking for strapless gowns in lighter fabrics such as chiffon, silk and taffeta with lots of lace,”

making the catchphrase “more is more” a glamorous theme of the season.

Mary Gamberdella, owner of Gamberdella Bridal Salon in Towson, agrees that fit-and-flare gowns are in. According to Ms. Gamberdella, “The girls are choosing dresses that are lightweight, soft and fitted in either ivory or white this year.”

As for bridesmaids gowns, Ms. Gamberdella notes that today’s brides are choosing comfort over style for their bridesmaids. “Brides are picking out dresses that are much shorter, comfortable, and have versatility; dresses that they can have altered and worn more than once,” she states. Popular colors for bridesmaids dresses include chocolates, pinks, peaches and greens.

Destination: America

While Fiji, Bermuda, Mexico, Jamaica and other exotic locations have always been popular spots to tie the knot, brides this year are choosing destinations much closer to home.

Wedding coordinator Lisa Nelson of Elegant Event Planning and Design has found that Baltimore’s brides and grooms are opting for places like Northern California, Nantucket, Las Vegas and Martha’s Vineyard to host their big day. “I think that they’re just looking for something different and non-traditional that suits their tastes,” says Ms. Nelson. “It’s a getaway for them that isn’t too far, yet still allows them to keep their guest list low,” she

adds. An added bonus: by having the wedding in the States, neither the bride and groom, nor their guests, have to wait in long lines for a passport.

Ms. Nelson also has found that home weddings are on the rise. “Brides and grooms have always chosen their or their parents’ homes as the setting for their wedding,” she says. “However, recently it’s become more popular because, with a home wedding, they

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PHOTO ANGELASCIARAFIA

Couples are opting for destinations closer to home.



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don't have to abide by anyone's rules and can tailor the wedding to their desired taste."

Then for those happy couples still choosing to take their destination overseas, European sites are the hot spot right now. With the huge hype over the elegant, well-publicized

celebrity weddings, such as the Italian nuptials of Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise, it's no wonder these destinations are hot. Professional wedding consultant Fran Aycock of Forrach Event Planning says, "You can't beat Italy for its beauty and charm."

Something Old, Something New ... Something Green?

There's a new wave of environmentally conscious young adults on the rise. Their growing concern for the environment and all things organic is causing major changes to the wedding industry, resulting in a new trend in green weddings.

Stephanie Courtney, of CCI Creations and a member of the Peace Corps, coordinated her own green wedding last July. Both she and the groom are what Ms. Courtney call part of the eco-generation, a generation that, she says, is aware of the state of our environment.

The summer wedding took place in Annapolis, which was a central location for family friends of the couple who reside all over the world. "Everything was recyclable," says Ms. Courtney, "right down to the dishes." They donated all leftover food to shelters, used locally grown food, and to save paper had their guest R.S.V.P. on the Internet.

A survey by Conde Nast, completed in 2006, found that 33 percent of the couples getting married that year planned to have a green wedding. In turn, businesses in the industry are producing products that conform to the trend. They're selling more biodegradable paper products, soy and LED candles, raw silk gowns and much more.

For the more extreme green enthusiasts, Web sites like terapass.com are available to take "carbon footprints" of a projected wedding, which reveal how much carbon will be emitted from the traveling of guests and the wedding itself. Couples are also making use of natural light, smaller guest lists and smaller venues to eliminate use of electricity. □



PHOTO PROVIDED
The centerpiece from Ms. Courtney's client was donated to a homeless shelter in Annapolis.

Kim Trompeter is an editorial designer for the BALTIMORE JEWISH TIMES.