

# Right gown a matter of taste and style

Continued from 1B

share with them how it would work," Chisolm said. "The wedding is a sacred ceremony. People have come to see you get married because they care about you. I tell all of my brides to smile, look beautiful and be radiant. I remind them that this is your happiest day."

In order to make that happen, the bride has to feel confident in the gown. Chisolm said the bridal gown, in addition to accentuating the brides assets, should also accentuate the bride's personality.

"If the bride has a sunny, open personality, the gown should reflect that in design," Chisolm said. "If she's elegant, the most likely she'll want something that looks elegant. The list can go on and on."

The gown can also transform. "A quiet, shy woman may choose a gown that's sexy or really outgoing," Chisolm said.

"They want something that makes them look different and special."

Occasionally, the bride chooses a gown that may not be flattering. Often they know immediately it doesn't look quite right, but sometimes it may take some steering.

"After a while you know what looks good on a person when they walk in," Funderburk said. "What I've found is that if they try it on and it doesn't work, they know it immediately and try something else. Everyone wants to look their best. When something doesn't, they'll immediately try something else."

Sometimes, Chisolm said, it may take a little gentle nudge to get them going in the right direction. When the gown is designed, brides can't see it until its done which may be too late. Not every woman is built like a model.

"You have to be tactful," Chisolm said. "Often people don't realize how something will look on them. It may look good on someone else, but not on them. I build a relationship where we can be open and honest and if something may not look right, I try to steer them in a different direction - gently."

Chisolm and Funderburk both agree the more confident a bride is the more radiant she'll be. They also say linking with a professional retailer with good references and years of experience is essential.

If you see someone with a gown you like, ask who made it or where they bought it.

"Most of my weddings are referrals," Chisolm said. "I've found that if I'm happy with the gown and the bride is happy with the gown, then everything will come out just right."



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Stephanie Adams models the perfect dress for flower girls. Dress: David's Bridal, \$99.

# Planning for the big day no piece of cake

By Jeri Young  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

He proposed. You accepted. Now comes the hard part - putting all the pieces in place so the big day will run smoothly. No small (or inexpensive) feat, say local wedding planners.

"When clients call in and say they want to get married in six months, I ask them if they have \$10,000 - on hand," said event planner Wialillian Howard. "Generally, that really does make them stop and think about getting married in such a short time."

What does \$10,000 get you? Just about anything you want as long as you limit the number of people attending the wedding reception to 100.

"It shocks them," Howard said. "Usually, they're shocked by the figure and change the wedding date. People honestly are not in tune with the kind of money it takes to have a nice wedding. Ten thousand dollars will get you a beautiful wedding, flowers, nice reception hall, sit-down dinner and pre-reception hour for about 100 guests."

Since most couples begin with a guest list at least twice as long, they're already at a disadvantage. Then come the vendors.

Howard, owner of HeartStrings, an event planning service, says couples are almost always surprised by the number of vendors needed.

"Most brides have no idea the number of vendors they need," Howard said. "They always think about flowers and the food, but there are so many others."

Picking a florist and caterer is only the beginning. Most couples want keepsakes which means hiring a videographer or photographers. At some point they probably will want to hire a wedding director. Add musicians, entertainment for the reception, a printer and graphic artist to design the program and someone to handle decorations you've got a plethora of jobs to farm out.

"The bride probably has no clue as to the negotiating power they have or the going rate for most services," Howard said. "When you add that to all the other things they're doing, it can be overwhelming. They usually go into negotiations at a severe disadvantage."

As soon as the bride accepts and the haze wears off, the couple needs to figure out how many guests to invite and how much money to spend.

The next step probably should be a trip to an event planner or wedding consultant. There are plenty out there, Howard said. If you attend a wedding and like the service, ask who planned it. Word of mouth is the best way to find someone. But couples need to be careful.

"It takes a lot of organization to plan a wedding," she said. "Couples shouldn't be afraid to

ask for references or even attend a wedding the planner or director is doing. You need to get a feel for how that person works and seeing an event is the best way."

After the initial trip to a wedding planner, work on shearing the guest list if you need to. A good starting point is to eliminate escorts for unmarried guests, business associates and relatives who live far away.

With the planner, figure out what kind of service and reception you want to have.

"Most people automatically think sit-down dinner," Howard said. "Sit-down dinners do have advantages, but there are also disadvantages."

Sit-down dinners tend to be

costly and if the goal is for the two families to get to know one another, it may not be the most effective.

"During a sit-down dinner, people tend to stay in one place, they don't mingle," Howard said.

From there it's on to vendor

contracts, finding the best location and attire for the wedding party.

"There really is a lot of work involved," Howard said. "If you need help, don't be afraid to ask. You'll get a better deal and most importantly, the bride won't have the worry and stress."

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**Guinn - Sackor**

Elizabeth Ann Jefferson-Guinn and Moyayah Abu Sackor were joined in Holy Matrimony March 21, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. in the Touch of Elegance Chapel, Ft. Worth, Texas.

The bride is the daughter of Merle and Sandra Usher of Gardena, California and Charles and Josephine Jefferson of Pontiac, Michigan. Elizabeth Ann is the granddaughter of Ernest and Arbutus (Abby) Muhammad of Ft. Worth. She is a graduate of Los Angeles High School and is working toward a B.S. degree in Computer Information Systems at DeVry Institute of Technology, Irving, Texas. Elizabeth is currently employed by Channel Solutions Group as an Information Systems Analyst.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mohammed Sackor of Liberia, West Africa. Moyayah is enrolled in the Business Administration program at Tarrant County Community College, N. Richland Hills, Texas. He is employed by Bankston Nissan of Irving as a Sales Consultant.

The Matron of Honor was Catherine Mitchell, and Maid of Honor was Apryle Jefferson. Bridesmaids were: LaKaya Guinn, Coretta Nichole Pilot, Marilyn Baccus, Romeisha Roberson and Talencia Bullock were the flower girls.

The Bestman was David Hallie, with Eric Guinn, Jr., Kenneth Howard, and Eric Howard serving as groomsmen. Jefferey Guinn was the ring bearer.

After the reception, held at the chapel, the couple left for a honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico.

Moyayah & Elizabeth will make their home in Watauga, Texas.

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