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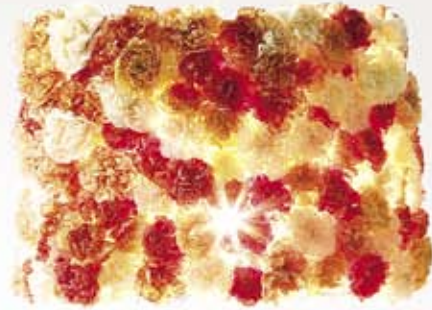
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Tables *of* Content

Lifestyle and entertaining expert Kelley L. Moore knows that the celebration begins at the table.

TEXT AND STYLING BY KELLEY L. MOORE PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM BARWICK



Each time you celebrate, it is an opportunity to rejoice in the occasion at hand, but also to take time to honor those who share the milestones with you. A wedding, that special day when friends and family arrive from near and sometimes very far to help you journey into a new chapter of your lives, is perhaps the most deeply meaningful of all gatherings. People you love, from parents to distant cousins, from colleagues to college roommates, are brought together for many hours with one thing in common: you and your betrothed. Together they will sit down, break bread, make toasts, share a dance and, for many, get reacquainted or meet for the first time. So why not make the tables at your wedding reception—the places they will inhabit for most of the party—an introduction to the very thing that brings them together? * Choose a theme and decorate your tables with gifts, stories and mementos that express your shared tastes. This creates conversation starters that will further connect your guests not only to you and your husband but also to one another. * Best of all, getting married in the Seattle area doesn't limit you to cookie-cutter decor. Just about anything for any look is available from creative local rental vendors flush with unique elements to create elegant and polished tables within your budget. Because setting a beautiful—and meaningful—table shouldn't break the bank.

Fresh *and* Contemporary

[PAGES 110–111 AND OPPOSITE]

A vibrant and juicy palette brightens gray skies and can work just as well for a bridesmaids' luncheon as an afternoon wedding. When decorating with vivid colors, it's a good idea to employ a lot of texture to keep the table settings from looking too severe. A lightly pleated overlay tablecloth softens a crisp, shiny underlay and also helps the individual settings to "pop." Lighting can also help to counter the severity of the palette; orange glass votives

cast a warm glow, and overhead a fanciful "shade" made entirely of carnations by Nisha Kelen of Queen Anne–based Fleurish is a showstopper.

A fun favor idea is to incorporate the name cards for each place setting onto the lid of each gift box. I like to make paper rings inspired by the dollar-bill rings my dad used to make for me when I was a little girl. For a personalized touch, use the recipient's first initial as a decorative center "stone."

On page 110: A paper ring sporting the initial of the recipient is nestled in a single carnation on a cheerful place setting. Pages 110–113: Sixty-inch-round table and white linen napkins from AA Party Rentals. Apparition acrylic chairs from Stellar Event Rentals. Conversation flatware and Cosmopolitan wineglasses from Totally Tabletops. Lemon chargers and salad plates from Select Linens and Event Rentals. Classic white 10-inch dinner plates from Pedersen's Party Rentals. Orange taffeta "Madame Butterfly" disc underlay and orange box-pleated taffeta underlay linens from Aria Style. Votive candleholders in curry from Glassybaby. Gift-box place cards from Suite 7 Creative. Floral "shade" of yellow, white and orange carnations by Fleurish.



KRISTIN
MELDAHL



Living in the Northwest, we all agree that our scenery and natural resources are among the most beautiful in the world, and it's nice to share that appreciation of the outdoors with visitors. This tabletop, a mix of the colors and textures of the Northwest—particularly those of our beaches and waterways—honors nature but is still sophisticated and elegant. With a little creativity, natural resources can be just as romantic as traditional flowers. Recycled glass from Interbay-based Bedrock Industries becomes a luminous and inexpensive centerpiece when poured into a glass cylinder and lit from below with a small light box. The rustic look of polished river-rock placemats counterpoints the elegance of the embroidered silk tablecloth, but also nicely mirrors the negative space of the room-divider backdrop from City Home Store on Capitol Hill. For favors, consider giving your guests something living, such as small succulents, which can thrive with little attention, along with a donation in their name to a charitable organization that works toward preserving the environment. House each plant in Spanish moss inside a small paper or cardboard box, along with a note displaying the benefiting charity. Add a second small card with the guest's name on it, indicating the gift's recipient as well as his or her place at the table.

All Natural

This page and opposite: Sixty-inch-round table, Emperor platinum dinner plates, teardrop hammered flatware and stemless wineglasses, all from AA Party Rentals. Kira stemless champagne flutes from Crate and Barrel. Light-box centerpiece from PNTA. Tumbled glass (in centerpiece) from Bedrock Industries. Blue textured-glass salad plates from Totally Tabletops. Aqua chargers from Select Linens and Event Rentals. Rock runner place mats and embroidered chrysanthemum blue taffeta linens from Aria Style. Place cards from Suite 7 Creative. White Chivari chairs and taupe linen napkins from Pedersen's Party Rentals. Room divider from City Home Store. Succulents from Swansons Nursery.



Stylish and Sophisticated

Sophistication and high style for an evening wedding reception can be achieved through simple means. Dress up tired ballroom chairs with “bustiers”—tightly wrap the chair backs in crisp, richly colored ribbons—and then free up table space by pinning the place cards onto the ribbon on the back of each chair. To create a romantic, upscale setting, use a basic combination of tone-on-tone shades in a deep palette, such as amethyst. Layer two tablecloths in likeminded shades, such as cranberry and plum, and pair them with jacquard napkins textured with metallic threads. Add small, non-obstructive glass votives

with flickering candles (battery-operated candles look the part, are safe and last all night), use gold-rimmed glasses and plates, and splurge on a lush floral centerpiece crafted with the same tones as the linens. Using a monotone palette with metallic accents pulls the look together in a high-end fashion without having to spend extra money. On top of each place setting, add an elegant card detailing a story of your courtship on one side and a correlating picture on the other side. Give each guest at the table a different story and they can break the ice by sharing the funny, romantic and exciting moments of your relationship with each other. *

This page and opposite: Sixty-inch-square table, gold Chivari ballroom chairs, burnished mesh candleholders, gold-banded goblets, stemmed wineglasses and flutes from AA Party Rentals. Athens gold dinner and salad plates, Copley flatware and Dover gold napkins from Pedersen's Party Rentals. Double-sided satin ribbons, place cards and story cards from Suite 7 Creative. Brushed-gold-finish chargers from Select Linens and Event Rentals. Eggplant soutache “Marcello” underlay and purple iridescent taffeta “Violetta” overlay linens from Aria Style. Centerpiece bouquet of hydrangea; stock; ‘Cool Water’, ‘Faith’, ‘Black Baccara’ and ‘Quicksand’ roses, Phalaenopsis orchids, pluots, grapes, dianthus and mini calla lilies by Fleurish.





The Proposal

After an amazing dinner, we returned to the car,

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The Proposal

