

The Return to Simplicity

CHOOSING YOUR WEDDING GOWN



The royal wedding brought fans around the world together to watch as the Duchess of Cambridge Catherine Middleton descended from her carriage and revealed the world her choice of bridal gown. The look, created by Sarah Burton for Alexander McQueen, caused some trend reporters to declare that bridal gowns will be quite similar to the Duchess's Chantilly lace creation, but long sleeves have yet to take over Athens.

"You see fewer strapless, but not much of the long sleeves like the royal wedding," said Patty Oropeza, owner of I Do, I Do Bridal Center.

Christy Hudson of Chris Hudson Couture has also seen brides "slowly moving away from strapless which is good. I'm seeing more kind of cap sleeves and very classic looking gowns."

Simple dresses seem to be taking over the runways. Popular bridal designer Monique Lhuillier named her strapless satin gown with a modified trumpet skirt Simplicity in her Spring 2012 collection. Vera Wang who is know for her signature frothy dresses drenched in tulle and organza seemed to scale back with a few pared down designs like a slim charcoal ballerina ball gown and a lace covered mermaid gown.

Simple also does not mean the quality of construction goes down. Tailoring becomes much more important

when dealing with cleaner fabric. The tailoring “must be absolutely impeccable,” said Hudson. “You can cover up any fabric with a piece of lace. Lace is extremely forgiving and can hid lots of flaw in terms of sewing.”

Lace seems to be a constant factor in bridal design. “Lace never goes away. We see lots of lace, but I would say of what we do, half is lace and half is simple,” said Oropeza

A simple dress also doesn't mean a loss of the “wow” factor. There are numerous ways brides can accessories her gown to create the look she wants. Oropeza has seen the trend of belts and beaded sashes. Veils also give the bride another platform to inject her style. “Veils, for girls who like lace, but not all over lace; are a great way to introduce it,” said Oropeza. She also noted the trend of colored shoes, “whether it be [the bride's] something blue or a color that matches [her] bridesmaids color” have continued to be a great way to add color.

Never more so than in bridal wear are the shades of whites and creams more prevalent. Everything from bright white to champagne and every color in between on the spectrum is represented. Athens brides still hold on to the more traditional colors, not venturing into roses or grays. Champagne remains a popular color, especially when paired with lace. “We get a lot of girls that do the champagne. Champagne with lace,” said Oropeza. Hudson also sees the use of darker creams even darker shades of beige with a lace overlay.

“It really sets off the lace and makes it pop,” said Hudson.

Another more recent trend is the return of a true bright white. “They were all doing ivory or diamond white but they will tell you at market that girls are going back to traditional white-white,” said Oropeza.

The moment a bride walks down the

aisle is a moment that will hopefully take every guest's breath away. The gown. The veil. The shoes. The flowers. All of these factors work together in harmony to present a glowing bride in the happiest moment of her life. Each woman's gown is a representation of her unique style and changes from bride to bride. While trends do exist in bridal gowns, each wedding is unique.

As Oropeza notes, “You still get everything. It's just based on the girl herself.” Each bride should enjoy looking at all the latest styles, but always keep in mind that her personal style, and the gown that she chooses will complement her beauty on her perfect day.

