



The Decor

A Day to Remember - Fondly. by Heidi Travis

Your wedding day is an enchanted affair. Be it lavish or cozy, glamorous or playful, elegant or fun, it is a day you want to remember for the rest of your life. Indeed, one day you'll look back and as you thumb through your old photo album, you will retrace that walk down the aisle, step by step, and it will all be there preserved in full color for all time – the dresses, the hairstyles, the flowers, the decorations – all there... for-e-ver.

That thought alone can set some couples on edge. No one wants to look back in horror at photos of the happiest day of their lives because of “trendy,” gimmicky wedding decorations or because they look like they traveled three centuries back for the ceremony. There's a balance, but...how to strike it? Where to even begin?

It can all seem a little overwhelming, but never fear. We got our experts on the line and here is what they had to say about the latest decorating trends.

This year is focused on quality over quantity, according to Megan Kennedy, owner and event visionary of Megan K. Events.

“Couples are using simple décor such as tapered candles, linens with texture and chairs to make an impact as décor, rather than functionality,” Kennedy said. Rather than piling on an abundance of decorations, the emphasis now is on select items chosen specifically to evoke a particular mood or

theme. It gives the ceremony a particularly personal touch.

“We are seeing more use of ornate glassware and lush greenery inspired design has become a big focus, even in indoor venues,” she said. “Prince Harry and Meghan Markle showcased this perfectly.”

Additionally, Kennedy said that couples are adding depth to their weddings by using a combination of tall tabletop arrangements, long hanging arrangements and floor arrangements propped high on pedestals.

Sarah Seeley, designer and co-owner of Sunshine Designs Florist, echoes Kennedy's take, also pointing out that more complex designs are catching on this year.

“Large, installment pieces are becoming more and more popular. A lush, over the top arrangement such as a fully decorated arbor, floral chandelier, or heavily decorated head





Photo by Jessi Field



tablescape can all make such a huge impact to your décor," Seeley said.

Textures are of particular importance this year too. As it's all in the details, the perfect combination of key elements can make all the difference.

"The use of texture in the small details is stunning. Using texture as an accent with, or in place of, a standard custom paper is extraordinary. We like seeing the use of velvet, leather, and acrylic within place cards, invitations, and menus," Kennedy said.

Colors are in, too. Seeley notes that pinks, peaches, and corals are all being used to add a little pop to decorations this season. With their warm glow and happy energy, these colors bring a cozy, sunny aspect to your wedding.

Kennedy also noted a stronger use of color this season saying that "bold accent colors paired with muted base tones" are a staple this time around. At the same time, there's never a bad time to put a new spin on an old classic.

"We are loving the resurgence of the pure white design. Having the base of white surrounding, allows the use of mirrors, mixed metallics, and glass décor for classic glamour. Add in tall greenery and you have an absolutely breathtaking event," Kennedy said.



Photo by Aislinn Kate

Locally, the trends stay a little closer to home. Particularly, beach weddings are seeing a delightfully playful combination of old and new. And if you can't make it out to the beach, well, let the beach can come to you!

"Not every bride has the opportunity to incorporate the beach into their wedding flower decor. Tropical flowers, colors, and foliage are always going to be popular for beach brides. There are so many ways to follow that concept into reception decor, too! Shells, sea glass, sand, and even fun pops of tropical fruit are all easy, affordable ways to dress up your guest table arrangements," Seeley said.

Looking for something a little less traditional? Kennedy notes that using large geometric shapes in place of standard arbors has been popular in recent years as well as pairing pampas grass with more contemporary styles. All of these extra touches can give your wedding a very unique, but homey feel here on the Emerald Coast.

In the end, it all comes down to what is best for the bride and groom, of course. No expert can tell you what is best for you and your wedding, but if you're looking for something special or new, then these trends may just be that finishing touch you were looking for to make your wedding day one to remember – fondly. ●