

The perfect look

Bubble skirts, beading new on gowns

By Debra Witt
Staff Reporter

And the bride wore a white A-line gown with a high waist and long train. . . . But nowadays the bride may make her way down the aisle in a straight, tight-fitting, strapless mermaid gown that flares at the bottom. Not all eyes will be on the bride, for equally striking is the groom wearing black, double-pleated trousers and a white Christian Dior dinner coat. So many new trends and styles are available

in wedding fashions today that it is fun and exciting to choose the perfect look for your wedding, said Sandy Rowson, owner of Sassi's At The Wedding Tree, 2530 O St. Rowson said the bridal business is no longer playing catch-up to ready-to-wear. Instead, bridal wear is leading the ready-to-wear business. Bubble skirts have been seen on bridesmaids' dresses for two years, said Rowson, and now are also being shown on bride's gowns. Another look that has been around for years in wedding fashions is the keyhole back dress.

Rowson said this look has been updated with lots of roped beading covering the open back. A new trend is heavier beading dangling from sleeves and across the front and back to catch the light, Rowson said. For the past two seasons, Rowson has seen more all-lace gowns rather than all-satin gowns. With the new lighter-weight fabrics, long sleeves can be worn in the summer and off-the-shoulder gowns in the winter. Although necklines have been plunging on newer dresses, the high collar is still popular, Rowson said.

Versatility is something a new bride may want to think about, Rowson said. Some dresses, she said, have removable trains so the bride can move around more easily at the reception and dance. This versatility and more freedom of movement is why some brides are choosing dresses with knee-length, tea-length or uneven intermezzo hemlines, she said. To complement these high-fashion dresses, the groom can wear a tailored Christian Dior tuxedo, said Jim Kopetka, president of Holway Rent-A-Tux. Kopetka said designers such as Dior, Bill



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Teresa Kastle tries on a mermaid gown in candlelight ivory at Sassi's at The Wedding Tree.

Blass, Pierre Cardin and Yves Saint Laurent have refined the cut of the coat, giving it a longer top collar and a forward pitch in the shoulders to make the wearer look taller. People want to look like the rich and powerful, Kopetka said, so for their weddings they choose the top designer lines. Although white tuxes will always be in, Kopetka said, 80 percent of grooms are choosing either gray or black. Kopetka said 11 or 12 shades of gray are available. Kopetka said grooms are leaning toward a very formal, classic look with a white tie, shirt and cummerbund or vest and a black tux instead of the traditional oxford gray tux with striped trousers and a wing collar. Without destroying the formal look of black, Kopetka said, Dior has interwoven a defined black fabric into the black tux, creating a textured look without the pattern. Men, too, can have added touches such as satin guard buttons on the front of a tail coat. Both men and women can pick from an array of color choices year-round. Pastels can be worn in the winter, and darker, brighter colors look great in the summer. Both Rowson and Kopetka said the choice of colors is up to what the bride and groom want. Some brides are wearing pale ice-pink gowns. This blush tone, Rowson said, is less trendy than a brighter pink, is easy to work with and looks good years later. For men who want a more creative look, Kopetka said, ties and cummerbunds come in tropical patterns with flowers and birds, and there also is a multicolored splash shirt. Interest in black bridesmaids' dresses is leveling off because it is not so uncommon anymore, Rowson said. Now only those who love the color are choosing it for their weddings. Today, wedding fashions can reflect a couple's lifestyle and wildest dreams. But Rowson said brides and grooms should pick dresses and tuxedos that they will love years from now when they look at their wedding photos. "You don't want to look back two years from now and ask, 'Why did I choose that dress?'" Rowson said.

Wedding gown stores make lists to help bride pick perfect dress

By Kirstin Swanson
Staff Reporter

"I don't know why, I just don't like it."
"That back is too plain."
"I think I like this one."
"I like this one, too."
"Can I try on a mermaid dress?"
"That veil is too long."
"I'm too picky."
In one afternoon, one future bride made all those comments and then some. Debbie Dunn, a senior business major, is planning an Aug. 6 wedding in a small, non-air-conditioned church in western Nebraska.

With just those facts, Dunn knows that her dress needs to be a traditional one with short sleeves and a modest train, since she is planning an outdoor reception. Dunn and her future bridesmaids tried on dresses one Saturday afternoon at Sassi's At The Wedding Tree, 2530 O St., and J'Marie's Bridal Shoppe, 225 N. Cotner Blvd. The girls "oohed" and "aaahed" over the dresses they tried on and took pictures for Dunn to send to her mother.

At J'Marie's, Dunn gathered up an armful of dresses to try on. More pictures were taken and more favorite dresses were found. Beth Trevarrows, a J'Marie's salesperson, said, "Everyone gets rings for Christmas, so January and February are really busy." Many times a future bride tries on a dress numerous times before she decides it is the perfect one. Therefore, the bridal stores list the dresses the customer liked on a card. This makes it easy to find the gowns when the bride-to-be returns to the store, often with a different audience.

Celeste Schultz, a salesperson at Sassi's, helped Dunn try on dresses that fit her criteria for style and price. Dunn was looking for a traditional white gown, but bridal magazines also are showing gowns in pastels this season. Schultz said she has had no requests for colored gowns.

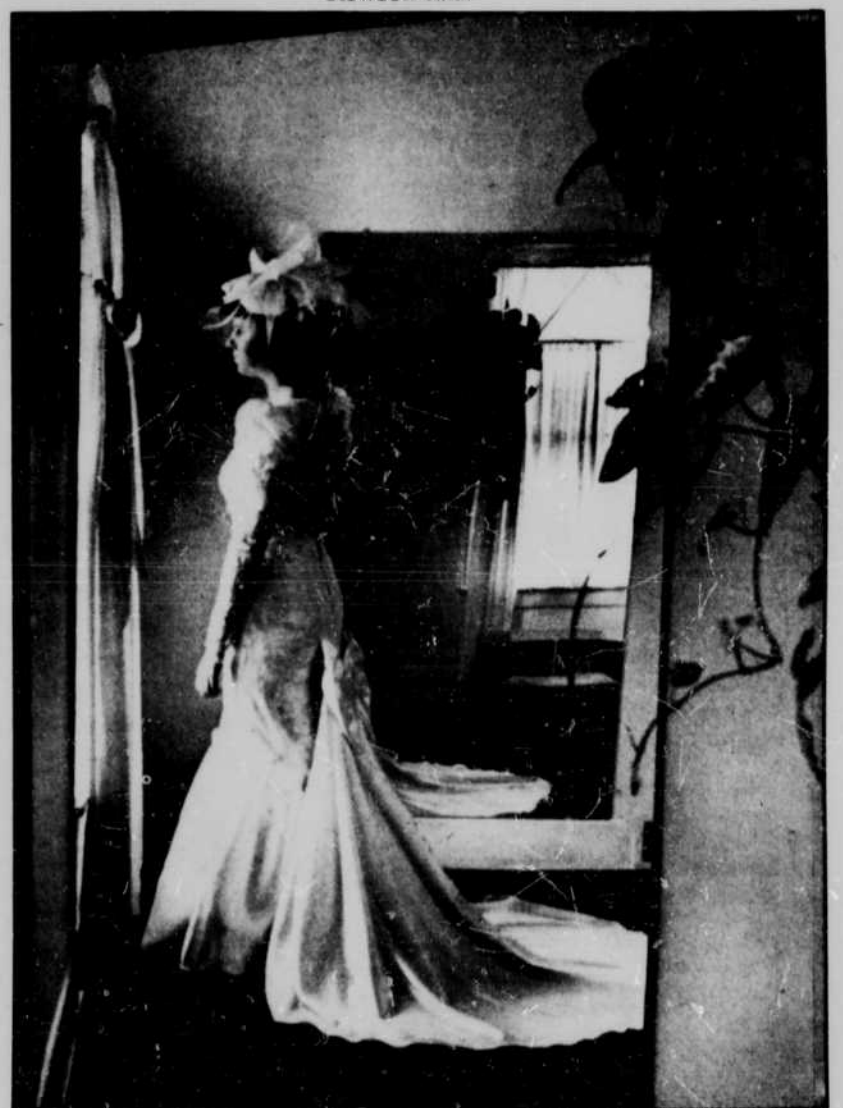
Dunn has chosen three dresses as her favorites, but she is waiting to show them to her mother before deciding.

Dunn said she plans to make her own veil, but she tried some on for ideas.

And once Dunn starts trying on gowns with her mom present, the comments probably will start all over again.

Schultz said she spent one afternoon helping a lady try on many dresses, and as the customer left she told Schultz she was going to make her own gown and just wanted some ideas.

"That bodice is too plain."
"The train isn't long enough."
"I really don't like that one."
"But, Mom, this is my favorite one."



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A mirror reflects Teresa Kastle as she ponders a wedding gown.

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