



Millie Becker, owner of Creative Weddings & Floral Designs, creates "wedding cakes designed to your wishes."

Melissa McReynolds/Daily Nebraskan

Romance touches flowers and cakes Details mark trend toward elegance

By Sara Bauder
Staff Reporter

Elegance and extravagance seem to be what couples are looking for in wedding cakes and flowers.

Millie Becker, designer and owner of Creative Weddings & Floral Designs, 70th and Vine streets, said the trend is toward anything that is more extreme and more extravagant.

An important part of that trend is color. Becker said that red and black are the most popular colors for weddings.

"The red and black have just taken over this summer," she said. "Peach and teal are still popular, too."

Becker said that while some brides still plan a pink or blue wedding, those colors have been seen so often that brides have been shying away from them.

With the changes in color comes a change in the size of the wedding cake. Becker said couples often order more cake than the number of reception guests would require.

"They want the cake to be for show," Becker said. "They want them to be as big as they can get them, with all kinds of elaborate details."

Some of those details include stairways, bridges, fountains, flowers with

lights wound between them, molded sugar bells, hand-tied satin bows and icing rosebuds, Becker said.

Although the ideas brides have for their cakes do not usually throw Becker off, she said she was surprised by one recent request to incorporate caged birds in a cake's design. Becker has never worked caged birds into a cake design before, but said she thinks it will work.

Rather than the traditional bride-and-groom figurines for cake tops, many couples want the more "cutesy" Precious Moments cake tops or imitations of them. These often depict a child-like couple in wedding attire, Becker said.

Some couples want flowers on top of their cakes instead of figurines, but Becker said that trend is not predominant among her customers.

Susie Coppock, owner of Susie's Floral Shoppe, 1401 N. 66 St., said tradition is back in wedding flowers. She said brides are looking for elegant, cascading bouquets of white gardenias, roses or stephanotis.

Although some brides want to hold a colorful bouquet, Coppock said the color often looks too splashy and draws the eye away from the bride and to the bouquet.

"A soft color in the flowers gives a glow to the bride and projects a total look," she said.

With the bride holding a white bouquet, most attendants carry bright colors in their flowers, Coppock said. Red, emerald green, teal, peach and black-and-white are the most popular colors for weddings, and flower colors are just as vivid.

"The brides will hold the white and then let their colors stand out with the attendants," she said.

Flowers for the groom should match the bride's bouquet, according to Coppock. The largest boutonniere should be worn by the groom, with ushers and fathers having smaller ones to coordinate with the wedding colors, she said.

Flowers for the ceremony and reception sites vary depending on the location and budget of the wedding. "A lot depends on the church," Coppock said. "If it's large, we usually start with an altar bouquet and a tall arrangement that can be taken to the reception site."

Coppock said one way couples can save money on flowers is to make sure flowers can be used at both the ceremony and reception.

A long, low arrangement often

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Love doesn't conquer; real happiness stems from common decency

Few have the chance to see their parents marry. At the tender age of 20, I, along with my sister and her husband, six brothers, five of whom are married, and all their children, watched my folks pledge a life of love.

It was a nice Catholic service; the church was filled with friends and members of the congregation.

They promised to love each other, for richer or poorer, in good times and bad, in sickness and in health . . .

years of motherhood.

"I do."
Only 45 minutes until church was out.

It was the first time I saw Mom as a fellow woman, not the person who I made cry for dining 'n' dashing at the local country club. This was not the woman who said you'll never find a man if you eat like that.

She was right.
And she had found a person who made her happy.

The priest went into a fire and brimstone spiel about how people in this day and age don't know what it means to be committed. That money and material goods have gotten in the way of real happiness.

My parents were a symbol to all couples of love and endurance . . . and happiness.

The happiness of having eight children. The happiness of watching your eldest son graduate from college. The happiness of being called by the high school attendance office because "your son wasn't in home-room again today."

This is all a part of love, the priest rambled on.

A few of my friends think it's strange and even sad when I bring up the fact that I don't believe in love. It is not some bitter conclusion that is derived from several failed pseudo-relationships. Or perhaps it is.

I would like to think that one of the most profound authors of the 20th century, Kurt Vonnegut, helped me mold my belief about love in his book, "Slapstick." At least it's a good pickup line.

"I have had some experiences with love, or think I have, anyway, al-

See **DONOVAN** on 10

Lisa Donovan

All these requirements for the sake of love.

All this for love.

Love.

Many things have been written about love. "Love conquers all," and "Love knows no bounds," and, of course, the famous song by the J. Geils Band, "Love Stinks."

Love and commitment, barefoot and pregnant, tied down to one person for the rest of your natural life, washing his underwear, him washing my underwear (even worse), him wearing my underwear. Too poor to buy underwear.

One can contemplate many things at those nice, long, Catholic services.

Anyway, Mom looked at my wrinkled and balding 66-year-old father standing next to her.

"I do."

Dad looked at Mom, sitting there in her wheelchair, worn from 19 years of battling multiple sclerosis and 38

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Attitude

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Higher educations beyond the undergraduate level may have a slightly higher divorce rate.

But generally, Johnson said, people with a college degree have a lower divorce rate because their jobs are less stressful and more satisfying. In addition, college-educated couples often are exposed to more people and more situations.

But Johnson said the divorce rate will remain high.

Johnson attributes this to the fact that Americans won't stay married unless they can find personal happiness.

Most people place more importance on the married relationship than they do on friends, family, etc.

Couples need to realize before they marry that the romance and sexual attraction will decline.

Once people realize that the relationship is going to change during the course of the marriage, Johnson said they can work through their problems.

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