

Jami Ortegen stands in the spotlight modeling a dress from Sassi's bridal store. Sassi's manager, Lisa Petersen, said strapless gowns and spaghetti straps were popular this season.



Sharon Kolbet/DN

Brides have more dress styles to choose from

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Because many brides spend a good portion of the wedding ceremony facing away from wedding guests, the back treatment on gowns is always important.

This season, a corset styling is being shown by numerous

designers. Some of the bridal dresses have lacing up the bodice back, while other styles offer a corset look in the front.

Following recent fashion trends, wedding gowns are also being shown with the bodice and skirt as separate pieces.

"Two-piece dresses have been popular," Petersen said.

"It's really about offering the bride options."

One new feature busy brides will appreciate is a dress with pockets. A European-designed gown at Sassi's features small hidden pockets perfect for holding a small handkerchief or other accessories.

After choosing the dress of her dreams, a bride can focus on the look she wants for the wedding party. Furnas and Petersen said more vibrant colors were making a comeback for bridesmaid dresses.

"Last year we sold a lot of

Victorian lilac. It's still popular this year, but so is a new deep cranberry red," Furnas said.

At Sassi's, Petersen said, shades of orange were popular, as well as nearly every shade in the purple family.

When it comes to the mother of the bride, the matronly style of the past have given way to elegance.

"We were so excited to see this year's mother-of-the-bride styles," Petersen said.

With more tailored details and beautiful fabrics, this season's mother-of-the-bride dresses can be worn for all types of elegant occasions.

When asked about the year's more edgy or trendy fashions, Petersen said bubble skirts were back.

But instead of the knee-length style of the 1980s, today's bubble hem is floor length and gives the dress the illusion of floating above the floor.

"This year it is all about choices," Petersen said. "A bride-to-be has so many beautiful options to choose from."

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