

## SOMETHING NEW



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### Rare Gems

Known for his design skill and exquisite craftsmanship, Michael Beaudry creates future heirlooms for those who treasure jewelry as art. Now his line, Beaudry Couture, features one-of-a-kind pieces, each individually signed and numbered—and all remarkable.

# FABULOUS FINDS

From dazzling diamonds to hot celeb wedding tips, make a note in your wedding planner to check out these treasures

By Maria Neuman

### Take a Seat

When the co-coordinators of the Governor's Ball for the 2005 Academy Awards needed 1,500 chairs, they called Chameleon Chairs, a Los Angeles-based rental company. Providing seating for the Academy Awards, the 2006 Emmys, and movie premieres, Chameleon offers seven styles to choose from and multiple color and fabric options. Even the choosiest bride is sure to find seats here. Log onto [www.chameleonchair.com](http://www.chameleonchair.com).





plan a 5:30 wedding if the sun were setting at 6 p.m.—there wouldn't be any light for photos or your cocktail reception. The sun should be setting during dinner."

When the sun goes down, the lights come up. "Lighting is the biggest factor in

### SCRUTINIZE THE SPACE. NOTE ITS ATTRIBUTES AND DRAWBACKS. THEN DECIDE HOW TO ENHANCE WHAT WORKS AND HIDE WHAT NEEDS TO BE HIDDEN.

making a space intimate and warm," Meyer explains. At a recent beach wedding she planned, Meyer thought that three enormous palm trees would become huge dark shadows after sunset. "So I focused on the trees by dramatically lighting them," she says. "The space was a lawn on a cliff that pretty much dropped off." With the lights, she created a perimeter—something she recommends because it keeps the party contained—and also a later endpoint for the reception, which went on until midnight. "Dinner was at dusk, and as the night grew darker and darker, the trees grew in drama."

Many sites may not have sufficient power to satisfy the needs of your event. In this case, Pittelli suggests renting a generator. "Get one from people who cater to the film industry," she says, "because theirs have to be extremely quiet."

Parking is another crucial issue. "Hire a reputable valet service," Pittelli counsels. "They'll get the proper city permits. The last thing you want is for your guests' cars to be towed or ticketed."

### MAKE IT YOURS

Besides securing the basics, you'll want to take steps to make your site personal. Start by scrutinizing the space, says Pittelli. Note its attributes and drawbacks. Then decide how to enhance what works, like entrances or gardens, and hide what needs to be hidden, such as a back or servant staircase.

Personal touches are what make your wedding unique. For example, Pittelli knew that European art was important to one of her clients. "I commissioned a painting of the bride for the altar," she says, "and after the ceremony I brought the painting into the dinner tent, where all the guests signed

the back of it. It was very personal."

Pittelli uses information she gleanes about the site along with details she learns about the couple to create an art rendering of a proposed design for their wedding space. "After I have an idea of who the couple is and what their vision is for their day, I put it on paper so they know what they're getting," she says. Then, the couple has the benefit of seeing a visual well before the

wedding date. "A bride doesn't want surprises on her wedding day," Pittelli notes.

### DON'T DO IT ALL

Finally, don't try to manage your event all by yourself. If you're not using a profes-

sional planner, Pittelli recommends designating a point person to watch over the schedule and details of your big day. "There are so many vendors and elements to oversee," she says. "More importantly, this day *flies* by. You'll want to spend your time with your family and friends—and enjoy yourself."

For Los Angeles-area sites in which you can host your big day, see the listings that follow.

**wrap it up** Fabric is one clever tool for personalizing your space. It can add color and glamour, create cathedral effects, make dramatic entrances, and hide anything structural that doesn't work with your vision.

