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# wedding *style*

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# Tabletops

## *natural elegance*

In an age when sweet nothings are shouted into cell phones and words of adoration arrive via text message, it is hardly a surprise that couples crave a sense of sanctuary on their wedding day. Tabletop designs set a mood that is reminiscent of an era when families dined together, where eyes convey more meaning than words and love can seemingly halt the passage of time.

Whimsical, romantic, dreamy designs have emerged as a popular alternative to the monochromatic, angular looks of recent years, says Karen Cohen, co-owner of Miami's Always Flowers & Events. "It's a resurgence of that soft, European look that is very lush," she says.

A table by Ed Libby and Company that incorporates willow branches draped with strings of Swarovski crystals, for example, mixes palatial elegance with the rougher charms of a rustic garden. "The concept was to take a grand table from the ballrooms of old and fuse it with the grandeur of the weeping beeches," says Libby. "It creates a look which juxtaposes nature with man-made opulence—a sort of destination wedding that could happen in your own backyard."

A warm, romantic setting begins with linens in elaborate jewel tones and warm neutrals: taupe, beige, champagne, and olive. Floral and other soft patterns evocative of the 1940s add charm, and napkins wrapped in silk ribbons that dangle to the floor convey a sense of elegance and fluidity.

Floral arrangements can be extravagant, like a table by California designer Jeff Johnson of Square Root that mixes 350 purple, lavender, and fuchsia orchids to create a virtual canopy of flowers. Others, however, have turned to "a more naturalistic style of design," says Cohen: "People are choosing flowers that you would find in a garden." In addition to tall and low flower arrangements, Cohen is experimenting with medium-height designs that add variety without impeding conversation.

Eric Buterbaugh of Eric Buterbaugh Flower Design in Los Angeles strives for the right juxtaposition of "contemporary floral design with more classic accoutrements." Clients want "very luxurious flowers presented in a modern way," he says.

Written by **Kim Knox Beckius**

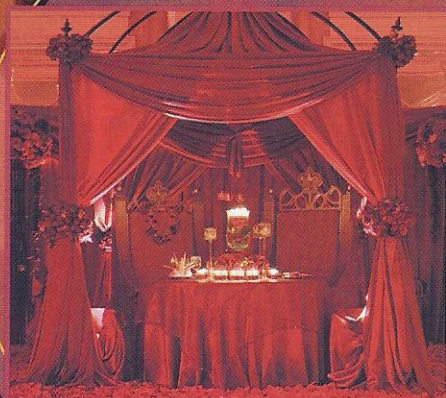
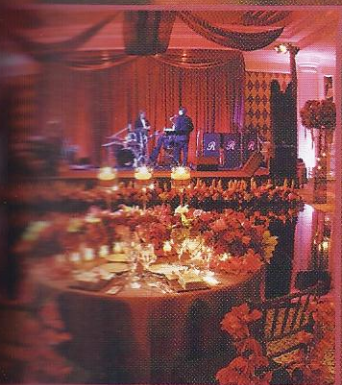
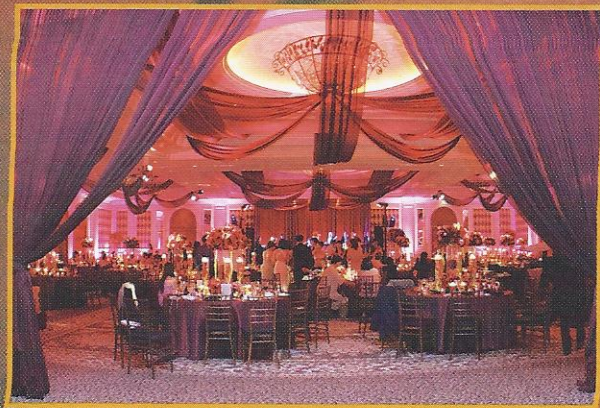


Location: **The Ritz-Carlton, Huntington Hotel & Spa, Pasadena, CA**  
Table and Floral Design: **Square Root, Irvine, CA**  
Linen: **Roberta Karsch-Resource One, Inc., Reseda, CA**  
Table Setting and Chairs: **Classic Party Rentals, Santa Ana, CA,**  
**Unique Tabletop Rentals, Rancho Dominguez, CA**  
Photography: **Cesare Bonazza Photography, Redlands, CA**



Eggplant Dupioni with a collection of vases filled with fuchsia phalaenopsis orchids, purple tulips, Vanda orchids, roses, lilies, allium, freesia, hyacinth, and hydrangea.





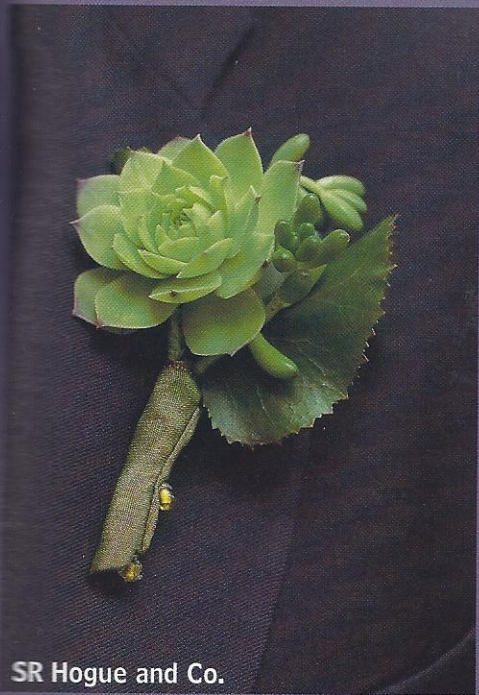
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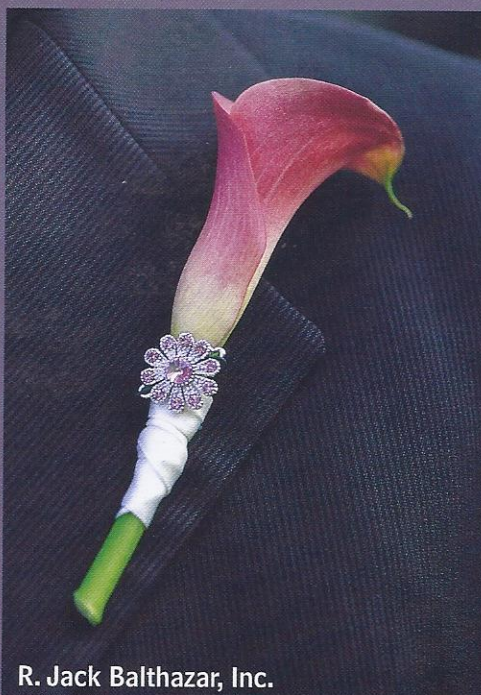






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Corridan & Company Design Studio

Elizabeth Messina Photography



Design Studio at The Breakers

Ron Manville Photography



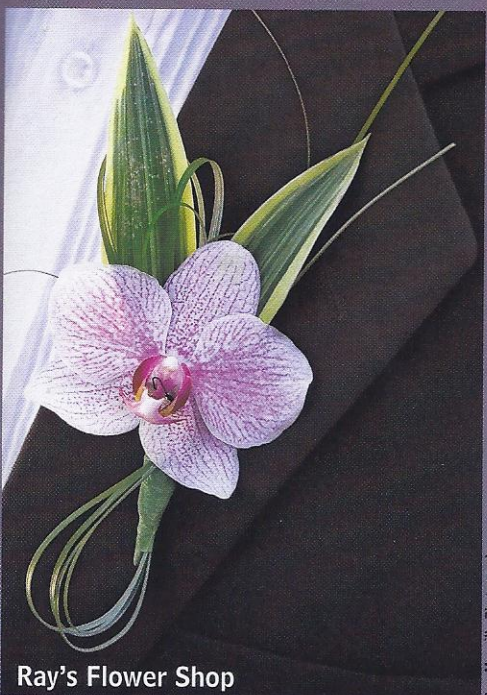
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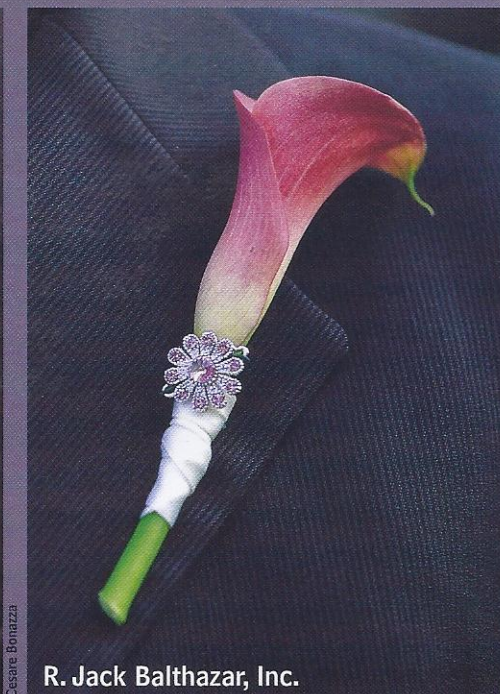


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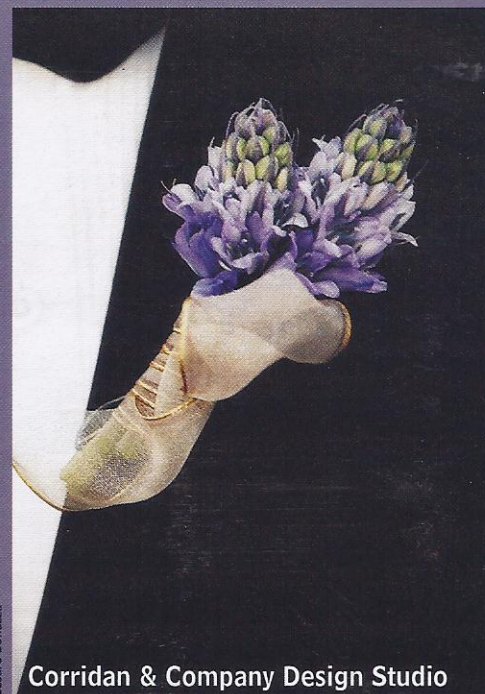




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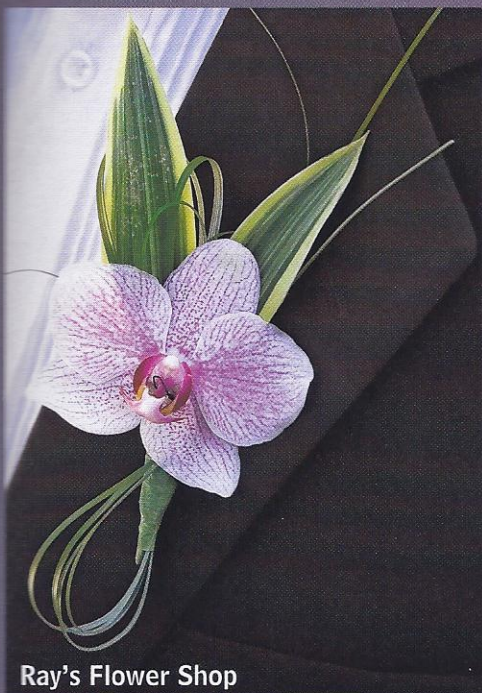
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