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THE CEREMONY Melinda and Dan stood before a backdrop of draped white lamour satin and gauzy white chiffon pulled back with green Kermit mums.



stylish *for the...*
minimalists

MELINDA & DAN • JUNE 16 • CHICAGO, IL



After dating for nine years, Melinda Stratman (28, a recruitment director) and Dan Green (28, an accountant) got engaged at the very same place where they first met: DePaul University. Once the reality of being a bride set in, Melinda quickly put her event planning skills to work—she's a wedding coordinator on the side. Prairie Production, a raw, lofty space in downtown Chicago, was the ideal blank canvas for the couple's crisp, clean, modern wedding.



THE BRIDAL BOUQUET The bride carried green cymbidium orchids, lotus pods, and lisianthus, accented with loops of lily grass.

THE BRIDAL STYLE Melinda had her hair pulled back in a low chignon for a classic updo created by Lilian Laureano that complemented her strapless, trumpet-style couture gown by Wvidon by Carla & Kenneth. The final touch: a pair of sparkling green teardrop earrings.

THE WEDDING STYLE Both the ceremony and reception took place in the loft-style studio. For a fresh, clean feel, white became the primary wedding color, while shades of green popped up through the modern floral arrangements. Dozens of white paper lanterns also hung from the space's 20-foot ceiling.

THE RECEPTION Each rectangular table featured a rolling design of green and white floral arrangements atop an apple-green runner. To create a linear look, apple-green napkins were folded into squares and paired with squared-off wineglasses and champagne flutes. A menu was then tucked into each napkin.

THE ESCORT CARDS White escort cards were placed in miniature chartreuse envelopes with each guest's name written in block calligraphy. The cards were lined up on a square white table draped in a crisp white cloth and detailed with cube votives as well as simple arrangements of flowers and foliage.

THE MUNCHIES Instead of wedding cake, guests were served molten chocolate cake or chilled lemon soufflé. At around 10:30 p.m., comfort snacks were on hand, including grilled cheese sandwiches, fries, and chocolate shakes.

THE PROGRAMS All of the wedding stationery was designed by Statement Design to have an organic feel along with a modern, clean look to match the reception space.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE WEDDING "Seeing my vision come to life!" says Melinda. "My mom explains it best—she says the wedding planning process was like reading a great book, and the day of was like finally getting to see the movie...and it was all you had hoped it would be."

MOST SURPRISING THING "How overwhelmed I felt when I arrived for the ceremony. I only had a small amount of time to take everything in," she says. "But before I knew it, I was walking down the aisle. I was overcome with so many emotions as I saw our guests, the room, and Dan for the first time. It felt like I was walking onto a movie set."

ONE THING THEY WOULD HAVE CHANGED "It began to rain as I was getting dressed, and I really let that preoccupy me instead of enjoying those final moments with my parents and bridal party before the wedding. I couldn't change the weather, so there really was no reason to let it dampen my big day. I wish I hadn't let myself become so distracted by that," says Melinda.

—C.V.



INGREDIENTS Photography KingenSmith
Productions Event Designer Lisa Gia Bascomb
of Parties Etc. Inc. Site Prairie Production
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