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JEAN KIM *marries* BONG YOUNG KOH

August 18, 2007 | Chicago Botanic Garden | Glencoe

A bride returns to her hometown to marry in the world-renowned public garden, where the vibrant details of the couple's wedding match the beauty of the venue.

The bride and groom met in 1992 during a summer language program in South Korea. But a romance between them didn't blossom until 11 years later, when they reconnected during graduate school at Harvard. Since they reside in New York City, the couple worked with Chicago-based event planner Lisa Gia Bascomb, of Parties Etc., Inc. (giaevents.com).

"The Chicago Botanic Garden (847-835-8370, chicagobotanic.org) is my mother's favorite spot in the city," says the bride.

"So we really wanted to get married there."



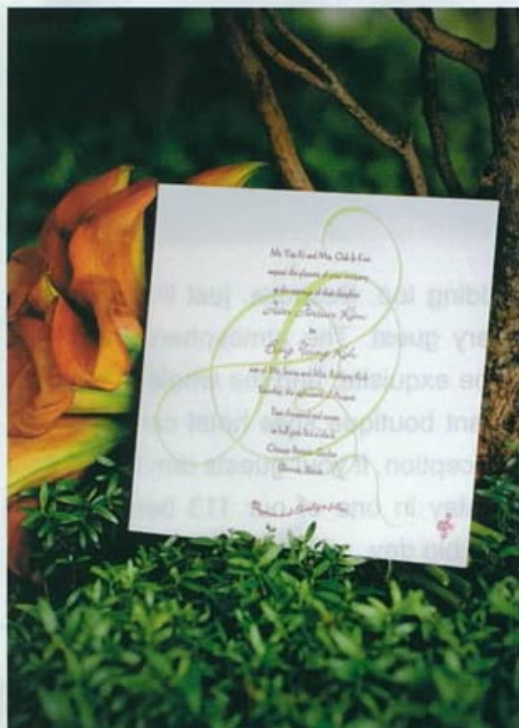
Jean's six bridesmaids carried bouquets of green cymbidium orchids and wore silk chiffon dresses by Jenny Yoo (jennyyoo.com) in styles they chose themselves.

"I wanted them to wear something that was flattering and comfortable," says Jean.



The head table featured arrangements of fresh limes and blossoms in vibrant hues. All floral design by Kara Hillier of Botanicals (botanicalschicago.com). During the reception, guests dined on roasted pear salads and a course of sorbets, followed by salmon tournedos and beef tenderloin. Catering by Calihan Catering (312-587-3553, calihancatering.com).

The couple's letterpress-printed wedding invitations by Elum, featured a whimsical ladybug in the corner (style: "Lady Trail," elumdsigns.com).



Jean wore a Kenneth Pool gown, purchased from Kleinfeld, in Manhattan. "The intricate beading was my favorite part of the dress," remembers the bride, who carried a bouquet of burnt orange miniature calla lilies. The groom's tuxedo was from Emanuele Tuxedo (847-967-5760), in Chicago.



The 5:30 p.m. ceremony included both a Lutheran and a Buddhist officiant. During the ceremony, Cindy Choi, the bride's cousin, sang Puccini's "O Mio Babbino Caro."



"I wanted our wedding colors to reflect the beauty of our garden venue," says the bride. Reception tables were decorated with arrangements of green cymbidium orchids, fuchsia cattleya orchids, orange mokara, and butterfly vine.

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The newlyweds joined their guests to watch a slideshow created by the bride's brother-in-law. It chronicled the couple's history and included a *Mission Impossible* parody of Bong's attempt to win Jean over during grad school. "That definitely was my favorite part of the night," Jean says.



Glowing votive candles surround a wooden box filled with fresh oranges and limes. These arrangements were placed on coffee tables in a lounge set up near the bar.



The reception tables displayed tall, square vases filled with fuchsia mokara orchids alongside smaller vases containing equisetum reeds and orange dahlias. Tables also featured green cymbidium orchid blossoms submerged in water.



ABOVE The buttermilk cake confection by Take the Cake (312-850-4530, takecakeetc.com) featured fillings of chocolate and banana, as well as crème brulee and fresh raspberries. RIGHT For their first dance, the couple chose "Better Together," by Jack Johnson.



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