

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO WEDDINGS WITH STYLE

WINTER 2006

INSIDE

weddings®

85 *incredible
pages of*
**REAL
WEDDINGS
& UNIQUE
RECEPTION
IDEAS**

*The
50 Best
Dresses*
*a guide to the
hottest silhouettes
of the season*

*Material
Girls*
*gowns
get the
fabric
treatment*

*Jump
for Joy!*
*dance down
that aisle in
sparkling style*

THE JEWELRY ISSUE

CHARMING BRACELETS, ENGAGEMENT RINGS & WEDDING BANDS

**HAUTE
MAMA**
DRESSES SHE'LL ADORE



GREAT GIFTS FOR THE BRIDAL PARTY • HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING



JENNIFER KLESS & STEPHEN ZEHR
OCTOBER 1, 2005 GLENCOE, ILLINOIS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY HEATHER & RICK KINGENSMITH

Garden party

Jen Kless' brother set her up with his co-worker Steve Zehr because he thought the two had a lot in common. But when they showed up for their date, Jen and Steve's styles could not have seemed more different: She was wearing four-inch red heels while he was wearing Birkenstocks. But thanks to a number of shared interests, Jen and Steve realized rather quickly that, despite their different takes on fashion, they were made for one another. In a manner befitting their low-key personalities, Steve eventually proposed to Jen in a very relaxed setting — his kitchen — after they enjoyed dinner at one of their favorite neighborhood restaurants. As Jen likes to point out, in a less-than-romantic-but-funny turn of events, that restaurant "was subsequently closed due to health code violations."

Aisle Runner
Heffernan Morgan

Beauty
Lilian Laureano Studio, Inc., hair & makeup

Bridal Designer
Amsale

Bridesmaids
Vera Wang

Cake
Take The Cake

Caterer
Callihan Catering

Consultant
Lisa Gio Bascomb, Parties Etc.

Entertainment
The Brass String Chamber Ensemble and
Chicago Children's Choir, ceremony
Stitley Entertainment, reception

Floral Design
Heffernan Morgan

Formalwear
Emmanuel's

Invitations
The Written Occasion

Lighting
Frost Lighting

Officiant
Reverend Kyle Nash

Photographer
KingenSmith Productions

Registries
Crate & Barrel
Marshall Field's

Rehearsal Dinner
The Cliff Dwellers

Rentals & Linens
Halls Rental
BBJ Linen

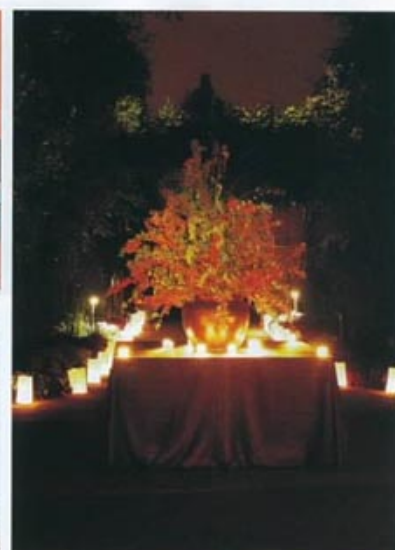
Shoes
Kate Spade

Transportation
Chicago Trolley Co.
Sidney's Valet
Chicagoland Transportation Solutions

Venue
Alice Millar Chapel, Evanston, IL, ceremony
Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL, reception

Videographer
Klein Video Services





The design of the draped reception tent was a modern interpretation of the season, with guests seated at square tables dressed in muted orange linens and framed by Asian-styled dark wood chairs. The architectural centerpieces incorporated flowers – eggplant and mango-colored calla lilies, red and green orchids, and black magic roses, to name a few – as well as candles displayed in glass cylinders and cubes. Even the first course of butternut squash bisque was artfully coordinated to complement the mood. Later, when the wedding cake – which was surrounded by bowls of fresh berries – was served, two additional types of dessert plates were placed in an alternating pattern in front of the guests, accompanied by the father of the bride's favorite German dessert wine.

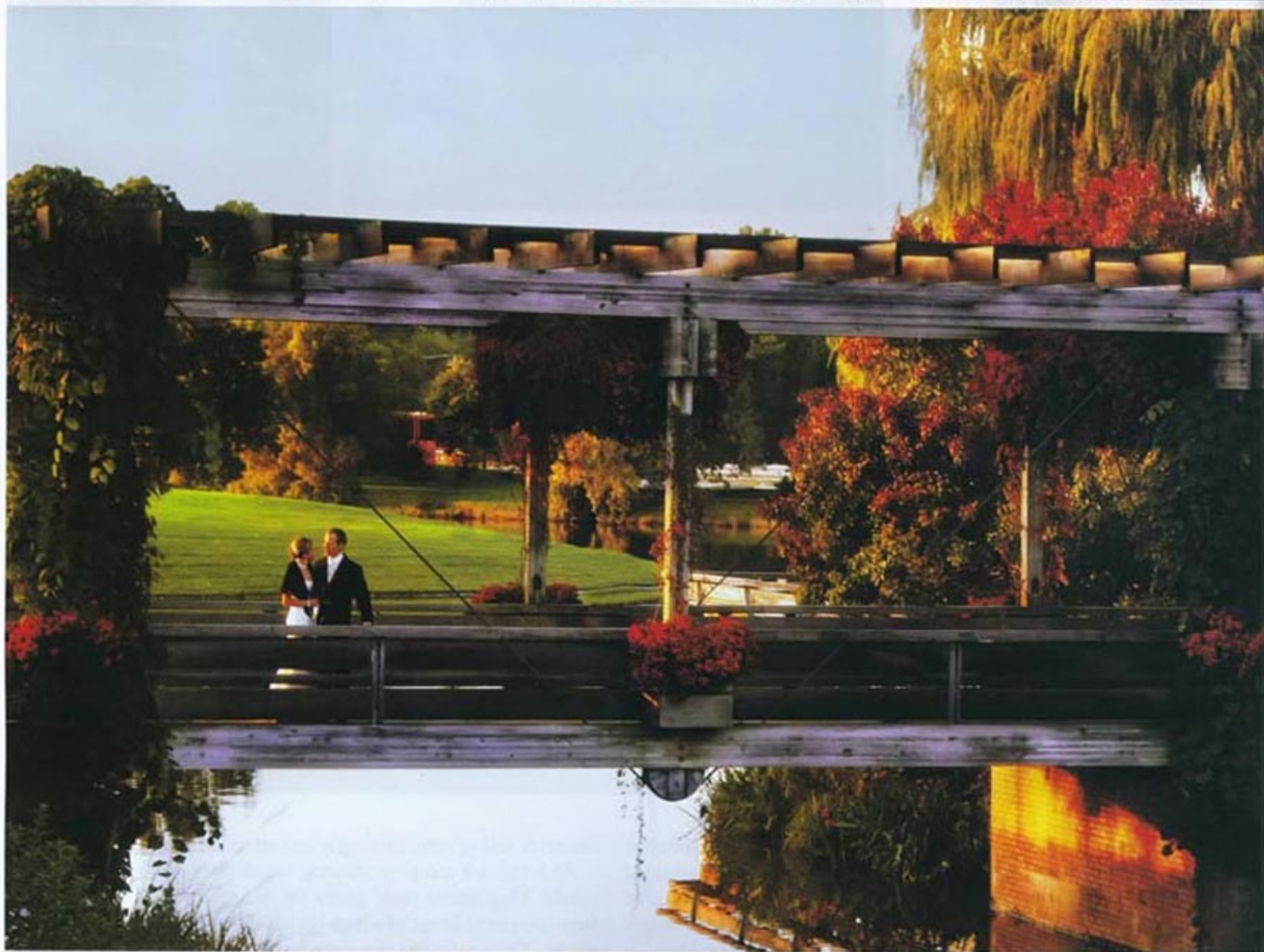
Just after Jen's father gave his toast, the couple participated in a wedding tradition from the bride's Southern German heritage. Jen and Steve each grabbed an end of a long saw and, together, sawed through a log to symbolize the first difficult task of married life. After they successfully cut through the wood, their guests signed the saw with well wishes for

the bride and groom, turning it into an unconventional guest book.

With this task complete, dancing was all that was on Jen and Steve's minds. They joined their guests on the dance floor, which faced a large, projected image of a high-heeled shoe paired with a Birkenstock sandal. The newlyweds also visited with guests who chose to relax in the nearby lounge area featuring cushioned benches, ottomans, and sleek couches accented by candlelight and tree branches. But their absence from the dance floor was not felt for long: "As the end of the evening was approaching, I grabbed Steve, and we spent the last hour dancing with one another, watching the crowd, and reflecting upon the day and the beginning of our life together," remembers Jen.

According to Steve, one of the most compelling memories of the evening is of their final departure from the party, when he and his new wife walked through the gardens along a pathway that was lit by 1,500 luminaries. The small glowing lights were almost a preview of Jen and Steve's honeymoon, one that was spent camping together in Wyoming beneath a brilliant star-filled sky.

JACQUELYN KISKER



When it came time to choose a venue for their wedding, Jen and Steve settled on the Chicago Botanic Gardens because the natural beauty of the setting expressed their love of the great outdoors. With the vibrant colors of autumn as their guide, the couple's talented design team—coordinator Lisa Gia Bascomb and floral designers from Heffernan Morgan, along with Calihan Catering—went to work planning a tented celebration in which every detail was elegantly harmonized. From the rich tones of the décor to the inspired menu, Jen and Steve's wedding was a celebration of their clean and simple tastes brought to life with autumnal splendor.

As the a cappella sounds of the Chicago Children's Choir

emanated from the rafters, Jen and Steve were married in a highly personalized ceremony at a chapel on the campus of Northwestern University (where the bride attended law school). "We devoted an equal amount of time to planning the ceremony as we did the reception," asserts Jen. They also paid careful attention to the music they chose for the entire event, opting to provide contrast to the ethereal children's choir with a fiddle and banjo trio during the open-air cocktail hour that followed. The sound was Oktoberfest-meets-county fair, and added a touch of Steve's rural roots (he is from a small town in central Illinois) to the urban atmosphere of Jen's hometown.

