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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 Vividion 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 KingSmith Productions Event Designer Lisa Gia Bascomb of Parties Etc. Inc. Site Prairie Production Flowers Botanicals