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Brides

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LOVE!

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and Big D's Most Dazzling Weddings!

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BY THE PUBLISHERS OF MODERN LUXURY DALLAS

Detail-Ornamented

Be you frilly and lacey or over-the-top glam, spring 2011's trends will have you locked in on your aisle style in no time

| By Isaiah Freeman-Schub |

Color Corrected

Never before has color been so contemporary—and accepted by brides. Vera Wang's blush layers are wooing aisle-bound lovelies left and right. Rather play it cool? Douglas Hannant's ivory and ice blue *fil coupe* gown has snow queen written all over it. Breaking convention is a beautiful thing.

Rings, from top: Cushion-cut diamond ring with micro-pavé pink diamonds set in platinum and rose gold, \$16,600, by Harry Kotlar at harrykotlar.com. Platinum ring with pear-shaped diamond, price upon request, at Matthew Trent.



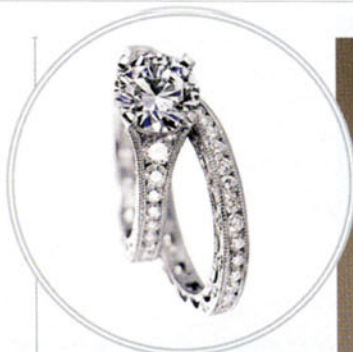
Dresses, clockwise from left: Blush Chantilly hand-printed organza mermaid gown with corset bodice, blossom flange skirt and organza flower corsage, \$5,100, at Neiman Marcus

and Warren Barrón. Emma gown, \$2,875, by Claire Pettibone at Patsy's. Ivory fil coupe strapless gown, \$7,700, by Douglas Hannant at Neiman Marcus and Stanley Korshak.

Oh Naturel

Floral embellishments on dresses is nothing new, but these latest interpretations literally look like they are sprouting right off the organza. Three-dimensional buds by Elizabeth Fillmore strike the right balance between girlish grace and sex appeal, while cascading appliqué at Angel Sanchez add an element of surprise. ■


Rings, from top: Platinum engagement ring and eternity band, \$24,000 for the set, by Tacori at Park Cities Jewelers. Platinum band with head-set diamonds and emerald-cut diamond, price upon request, at Matthew Trent.



Dresses, from left: Bloom ball gown with allover organza flower motif, \$6,380, by Elizabeth Fillmore at Neiman Marcus and Warren Barrón. Ivory Alençon gown with petal appliqué,



\$7,810, by Angel Sanchez at Stanley Korshak and Warren Barrón. Vanessa ivory soft satin and lace keyhole gown, \$1,238, by Wtoo Brides at Mockingbird Bridal.

A woman with dark hair and large earrings is shown from the waist up, wearing a white strapless gown. She is holding a bouquet of purple flowers. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Cloud 9 gown, \$4,995, by Lela Rose at Warren Barrón. Elizabeth belt, \$1,050, at Michelle Rahn, Chicago. Cecile earrings, \$300, by Dannijo at select Intermix stores and dannijo.com. *Opposite page:* Long strapless gown with embroidery detail, \$4,950, by Marchesa at Warren Barrón. Corbin earrings, \$295, by Dannijo at select Intermix stores and dannijo.com. Grant silk satin peep-toe shoes with Swarovski crystal detail, \$895, at Jimmy Choo, Highland Park Village.





ELLE WARREN & BRENT HARMAN *March 13, 2010*

Matchmaker, Matchmaker!

A blind date led to wedded bliss for bridal store owner Elle Warren and barbecue heir Brent Harman | *By Rebecca Sherman* |

For Elle Warren, going to work each day as the co-owner of a bridal salon was bittersweet. In her mid-30s, unmarried, and still hunting for Mr. Right, Warren was surrounded by constant reminders of nuptial bliss—glowing brides-to-be, their happy families and, of course, racks of gorgeous gowns. Her fate seemed sealed. “I always said I’m never going to meet anyone because I practically live at

the bridal salon. Single men don’t just walk in off the street,” said Warren, 34, who opened Warren Barrón in Highland Park Village in 2006 with friend Cecilia Flores-Barrón.

But she hadn’t yet met Brent Harman, who marched right in one day in June last summer and asked for her by name. Newly divorced, Harman, 38, took the advice of a mutual friend and decided to ask Warren

out on a blind date. Warren had gone home early that day. “Cecilia called me and said a handsome guy had just come in and left his card. Most guys who come in are embarrassed and sheepish to be in a bridal salon, but Brent had his head held high,” Warren recalls.

They talked later by phone and arranged to meet for lunch the next Monday at Sonny Bryan’s Smokehouse in Inwood, one of the nine famed barbecue restaurants that Harman owns. To say the date went well is an understatement. After lunch they headed to the Inwood Theater for a movie, then to The Ritz Carlton, Dallas for an afternoon swim and poolside drinks. Completely smitten, they wrapped up the 12-hour date with dinner at Charlie Palmer.

Some people just have a knack for romance. One stormy night weeks later, the pair opened Warren’s store, put some old Dionne Warwick and Nina Simone albums on Warren’s vintage record player, and danced while it poured outside. Warren tried for months to guess when her newfound love might pop the question. He managed to take her completely by surprise one night, again in the bridal salon, six months after their first date and just days before Christmas. “I turned around and he had this big smile on his face, and I realized it was happening. I’d been thinking about this day for 34 years!” she remembers. He ushered her into the dressing area, where there was a single red rose waiting, an antique, three-carat diamond ring that had belonged to her great grandmother, a bottle of Dom Pérignon, and two Champagne glasses. The answer—yes!

Three months later on March 13, they were married. Things happen fast when you’re in love and the owner of a bridal salon. Warren had her longtime friend and New York bridal gown designer Elizabeth Fillmore custom create a dress for her. But just two weeks before the wedding, Warren changed her mind about her gown when a new Fillmore sample arrived at the store, a sassy strapless number with a peplum waist, black sash and black roses, which she fell in love with. As fate would have it, the sample fit perfectly. “Only a bridal store owner can do something crazy last-minute like that,” says Warren. Harman was impeccably tailored in a Balenciaga suit and Alexander McQueen shirt.

After a 7pm ceremony at First United Methodist Church, the wedding party and 60 of the couple’s close friends and family headed to the Sendero at Fearing’s in The Ritz for a reception. The room was filled with Warren’s favorite white and ivory garden roses, peonies, lily of the valley, ranunculus and blooming branches. At the cocktail reception, guests noshed on chef Dean Fearing’s lobster tacos,

Photographer: John Derryberry Photography

Bridal Gown:

Elizabeth Fillmore

Hair & Makeup:

Sonia Trevino (hair) &

Mayra Rams-Sanabria

(makeup)

Bridesmaid Dress:

crewcuts by J. Crew

Flowers: Bella Flora

of Dallas

Cake: Custom cake

by Fearing’s

Band and/or DJ:

Wes Cunningham

(friend of the groom)

Wedding Planner: Alison

Baker of DFW Events

bacon-wrapped quail bites, and fried oysters with—what else—Sonny Bryan’s barbecue sauce. At the seated dinner, Fearing, a longtime friend of Harman’s, served tortilla soup, Caesar salad, salmon, halibut and buffalo, which everyone went crazy over, says Warren. In addition to a nontraditional spice wedding cake drizzled in caramel, guests were served key lime, pecan and chocolate tarts.

A 1939 Cadillac whisked the newlyweds away at the end of the evening for a tour around Turtle Creek before bringing them back for the night at the Ritz. The next day, the couple took a private jet to Richard Branson’s Ulusaba private game reserve in South Africa for a photo safari.

In the couple’s tradition of endless romance, the honeymoon wasn’t over yet. A week later, Warren and Harman flew off to the Four Seasons Resort at Mauritius, an exclusive island east of Madagascar. “It was the most unbelievable honeymoon you can imagine,” says Warren, back at work at the bridal salon, but still moonstruck from her whirlwind wedding. ■

Below, clockwise from top left: Tall vases light the way to the chapel; Fearing’s at The Ritz Carlton, Dallas; wedding party flowers; the vintage cake topper given to Warren when she was 15; Bella Flora decked the trees in the outdoor bar area at Fearing’s; Brent Harman, Elle Warren and maid of honor Ainsley Harman.



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