

# Let's do Décor

The wonderful thing about wedding décor is that almost any venue can be transformed into a wonderland from the bride's imagination. Not only will the venue look completely different to a guest who may have visited before but the décor has the wonderful ability to reflect the personality of the bride. **A special feature by Erna Swart, Décor Consultant –Oakfield Farm**



One of the reasons we encourage the grooms to be involved in this aspect of the wedding is so that the wedding belongs to both of them and not the bride alone. Of course, because nothing comes without a price the décor specialists need to be very special indeed. Obviously, they are required to be artistic.

They need to know what décor is available from various reputable suppliers, which flowers are in season, the latest trends and settings and even the layout and atmosphere of the venue. Then they have to be able to understand the essence of what the bride and groom visualize, ensure that it will work and that their requirements will be covered by what is usually a restricted budget.

For this reason Oakfield Farm has employed a dedicated décor specialist. Erna simply cannot help making things look beautiful. It is not surprising that she found her way to Café Fleur where she worked with Wilme van Niekerk for seven years, after which Oakfield employed her to work specifically with their clients.

She has a wonderful way with people and an ability to understand and define exactly what the couple wishes to achieve. She is able to guide them towards the specialists best suited to their look and feel and, of course, their budget.

When we asked Erna to write this feature she suggested that she focus on just some of the key aspects. We trust that these lovely weddings will inspire you.





Elmien and Paul Hugo  
Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008

# Winter Wonderland

Photographs by  
Splendid Productions



To be different, you have to break away from tradition. Paul and Elmiën did this and more. The venue and chapel were decorated as only Gideon's creative genius can. Then they carried their theme into the gardens to make a Winter Wonderland of Oakfield Farm.

From the moment the guests arrived it was clear that this was Paul and Elmiën's wedding. Their names cut from rusty metal hung from the arch in the gardens. Glass bottles hanging from the autumn branches reflected the colours of their wedding. Hanging hearts reminded us that this was a truly romantic occasion.

Having filled the garden with décor the Chapel was a picture of simplicity. A carpet of leaves lead the way to the alter with simple glass lanterns nestling in leaves to add warmth and charm. This made Elmiën and Paul the real focal point of the occasion.

The table settings were meticulous but also completely unexpected. The natural elements of nature were brought to the tables. You would expect the flowers to be in vases but were laid on the table. Usually flowers adorn the tables but in this case the flowers were also placed on stands on the outskirts of the guest tables, creating an eye-catching and unique look. Of

**Elmiën and Paul Hugo — Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

Gideon and Elmiën's mom have known each other for a long time and he did the décor at her wedding. Thirty years later Gideon's creative brilliance and unique style is evident in the décor at Elmiën and Paul's wedding. There is no doubt that Gideon is a hard act to follow.



**Photographs  
& Video**  
Splendid  
Productions

**Décor & Flowers**  
Gideon  
**Couture**  
Amaya Wedding  
Emporium

the many different options available when arranging flowers—formal, informal, and modern an informal was chosen yet the structured combination which gave the opulence and class to the design whilst still feeling intimate and homely. With the personal table names an amazing blend of informality and class was created Formal lamps were used at the back of the main

table. Traditionally lamps are used in your home; this wedding brought their homely feel to the venue. The contrast was unexpected and proof that you need never feel compelled to keep to the rules.

Instead of the traditional main table the retinue were seated at an ordinary table this again, enhanced the informal and relaxed styled. Colourful cushions were used to decorate the couches giving warmth and intimacy. The candlelight throughout the venue cast a spell of romance. The effect was simple, delightfully different and utterly unique.

“Home is where the heart is!” The feeling was so intimate and personal so Paul and his retinue did not wait for the formalities to begin but enjoyed the venue with a rugby ball to calm the nerves before the ceremony. Here was a family who were so happy, spontaneous and relaxed it seemed as if Oakfield Farm belonged to them.

The spontaneity of the day is captured in the images of the children who were just children playing in a garden. This was a wedding so in harmony with the setting it was hard to believe that this was a wedding venue and not Elmien and Paul’s home.

# *A stunning spectacle of Colour*

**Monique Ehlers & Terrance Labuschagne**  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Photographs by Irene Quist





**Monique Ehlers  
& Terrance  
Labuschagne  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>  
October 2008**

“I’ve been waiting for this moment for so long.... An answered prayer, I know you are the one, I give you my heart and soul, With a love that will never grow old.”

Ten months sounded like a long time to plan a wedding. Well, believe me, it passes quickly! Suddenly our big day arrived. I felt at ease knowing that everything was being conducted exactly in accordance with my “somewhat demanding wishes.” Our vision truly became a fairytale wedding.



A distinctive wedding should always reflect the character and personality of the bridal couple. Monique and Terrance had a vision to incorporate vibrancy through the use of exciting colour, in a timeless romantic setting, to create their own exceptionally unique wedding.

For their spectacular summer wedding on the 4th of October 2008, they introduced a startling spectrum of three bright colours, turquoise, cerise pink and brilliant purple. From the elegant stationery, specialized keepsake seat cushions and beaded bookmarks, to the special touch of dazzling dyed feathers, used as confetti, the colours were present in all aspects of their wedding and tied beautifully into their theme.

The most prominent use of the colours was in the elegant eye-catching bridesmaid dresses and matching groomsmen’s attire. These again captured the vibrancy of the wedding.

With the professional help of Hillie of ‘Flowers Your Way’, a perfect selection of flowers included Stargazer Lilies, Orchids, Purple Lisianthus and Cream Roses enhanced with turquoise beads. Exquisite arrangements were created for the ceremony in the conservatory and the reception in the Homestead. This reflected the confidence and outgoing personalities of both the bride and groom.

With the clever use of satin draping and candle-light, the bright colours were softened and an ambience of romance and sophistication was created – ideal for a wedding. Even the beautiful handmade table gifts were a perfect match with the memento booklets echoing the theme—a lovely fairytale reminder of a special celebration for each of the guests to take home with them.

This was a wedding that was completely personal and was also a refreshing break from tradition. And why



**About the Photographers**

Irene and Eugene Quist— This husband and wife team have for many years, together shared their passion for photography. Their artistic ability, post production skills and a combination of traditional and journalistic styles, make for images of stunning composition with the romantic touch that memories are made of.

**Flowers**  
Flowers Your Way

**Invitations**  
Lime By Design

**Wedding Cake**  
Cake Affections

**Table Cloths**  
Café Fleur

not? There is no Rule Book! Their choice of photographer could not have been better as Irene Quist loves the use of colour in her work. With the advancement of digital photography her images perfectly captured the essence of eternally magnificent memories.

Not every bridal couple has the confidence to be so daring but it confirms that you need not be afraid of expressing your own unique ideas with your wedding. With the assistance of reputable decor professionals you can be true to yourself. After all, this is your wedding day and it should be truly your own—just as you dreamt it.



# Beautiful on a Budget



**Photographer**  
Elske Kritzinger

**Cake**  
Maple Dry  
Caterers

Deciding on your budget, and sticking to it rarely happens but Maria Ganoha did just that. I could see that the bride wanted a plain, elegant wedding and she accomplished it by using a silver candelabra as her centerpiece. This was the key factor that made the wedding stand out and the best advice I can give to brides who are working on a tight budget, is to use at least one good-quality item as a centerpiece.

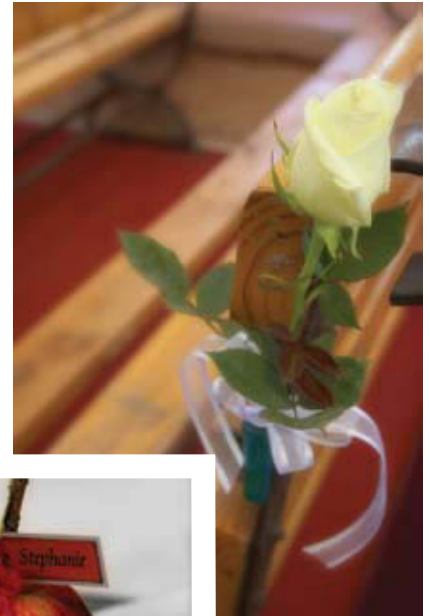
Traditionally, flowers would be used in the candelabra however the bride used it in its simplest form, which really made a statement.

She also chose a good-quality, luxurious fabric for the runners on the table and saved costs by making them herself. The bride thought creatively about the layout of the hall and went against the status quo. She had only a few tables and used the venue's couches as part of the interior, creating a cozy and inviting look and filling the empty space.

Using the same material as the runners to make cushions for the couches, the result was a homely and intimate setting.

The flower vases were simple and contained only four roses, staying comfortably under budget. What really caught my eye, was the single blade of grass inside the vase which gave it an artistic feel. Every lady at a table had a vase in front of her, which were then given to them as gifts at the end of the evening—a very thoughtful way of combining the décor with the keepsakes and ultimately staying within her budget.





# Decadent with a Twist

People can sometimes astonish you with their creativity and this wedding was proof it.

Who would have thought to combine chocolates and roses as an edible centrepiece for a wedding? It looked really beautiful and the contrast between the brown and the orange made a statement. There is something to be learned from looking at the photographs, for example, the good use and repetition of colour. The contrast between the brown and orange looked beautiful. The flowers, runner, the fruit and even the Pashmina's that were given as gifts were a perfect match. This made a statement and showed that thought and planning went into the design. There is a saying "plan your work and work your plans..." this is crucial for weddings.

The apples were brought in as a fun element. Although it was a stylish wedding it really brought life to the table and added another twist that made you look twice.

If you create interest, the reaction immediately pulls guests into the wedding and they truly become part of the joy they have come to share and celebrate. Many people forget that the bottom of the table can look lifeless when the flowers are done on a higher container as in this case. Remember to repeat the colour of the flowers on the napkins and maybe a stylish gift box or ribbon around the napkin.

When you plan your wedding read articles like this and learn from other peoples' experiences to create your own twist.

**Photographer**  
Elske Kritzingen  
**Interior Decorator**  
Riëtte Möller  
**Florist**  
Melanie Henning  
**Printing & Design Elements**  
Carin Wynbergen