



The First

Glimpse

**Natasha Rodrigues
& Carlos Dos Santos**
Sunday 26th October 2008
Oakfield Farm Conservatory

The first glimpse of the mood and personality of your wedding will be revealed in your invitations. Get off to a good start...

By Sane Michael Of Ivory White Stationers

A wedding is an amazing time for a couple and their loved ones and all efforts to make everything look beautiful will be much appreciated. It is important however to make sure that these incorporate your personality and style. The invitation sets the tone and style for your guests so this is also the starting point to conceptualising the theme. It is important to let your imagination guide and inspire you.

Ten tips on creating a beautiful style for your wedding stationery

1. Color

Have your stationery reflect the color scheme from other details in the wedding and get color inspiration from what's on fashion runways around the world.

2. Monograms and Calligraphy

Integrate beautifully-designed monograms and calligraphy for a romantic feel.

3. Embellishments

Add an extra flair to your stationery by using embellishments such as diamante buckles, studs, pearl-bead hearts, pearl-bead buckles, cameos, buttons, badges, ceramics ornaments, wire, crystal beads, ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING practical!

4. Poetry

Incorporate a quotation or text from a song or poem into your wedding stationery—including invitations, menu cards, programs, favor tags, packaging and thank you cards.

5. Prints and Patterns

Prints and patterns make stationery look unique and fresh. Use retro prints like stripes, polka dots, circles for a dramatic contemporary look, damasks for an elegant and classic look, florals for a pretty look or a nature pattern like trees or birds for an eccentric look.



Photographer
Sonja Hilton
Stationery & Favors
Ivory White
Flowers
Casa De Flores
Décor
Café Fleur
Trendy Settings
Cake
Sugar Creations
Dress
Lady Marmalade



6. Ribbons and Lace

While there are a variety of ribbons available, stick to mono or duo color ribbons—you do NOT want the ribbon to overpower your stationery. Luxurious ribbons like satin, grosgrain, silk, velvet and lace ribbons will create a tasteful feel and create an expensive look to your wedding stationery.

7. Shape

The best way of bringing a fresh a unique flavor to your stationery is the use of shape. Your stationery doesn't have to be traditional. Rounded corners or a nice small cut-out shape stuck on normal shaped invitations are a safe way of using shapes but if you are feeling bold, you can go for anything from a heart to a circle or bird. Tastefully done puzzles are also a nice way of having unique shaped invitation or thank-you cards.

8. Packaging

Packaging will create a distinctive edge to your invitations and favors. Place them in beautifully wrapped and



personalized boxes, tubes, bottles or bags. Your guests are sure to enjoy the small package you give them.

9. Paper-Art

To complement your wedding décor create paper-art such as origami cranes, paper-cones for petals or a single flower or shapes that you can hang on trees or inside the venue. Make the paper-art interactive so that your guests can have some fun with it.

10. Make it all about you!

Remember that your stationery should reflect your personal style. Choose the best style for you and your budget. Incorporate little details that will make the overall picture BIG!

And, no matter what type of wedding stationery you select, have some fun with it!

Sanè Michael is a founder and creative director of Ivory White, a Gauteng-based design studio that specializes in innovative, couture invitations, avant-garde favors, creative packaging and embellishments. Synonymous with style, luxury and great taste, Ivory White was initially a wedding concierge which planned high profile weddings and events, and is now a highly respected and sought after design studio for a design savvy clientele. See advert on page 61.

IVORY WHITE STATIONERS

After dating for seven years Carlos and Natasha planned their big day more than a year in advance. Ideas were gathered and finally a country, summer wedding was decided upon. The search for the perfect venue still took three months until Oakfield was chosen. The venue gave her a special and romantic feeling inside.

“ I fell in love with Ivory White’s work when I first saw them at the Oakfield wedding expo in 2007, their work was unique, elegant and affordable. I had been to many expos yet it was the first time I had seen such stunning stationary with so much attention to detail. Their creativity and design is beautiful.

I wanted to create a romantic and beautiful feel but also keep the look soft and elegant. Overall I didn’t have many specific instructions at our first meeting. After viewing all the samples, I selected a damask print for all the stationery elements and invitations. We then developed a theme, colours and all other ideas and inspirations followed from this point. With the stationery became the inspiration for the entire look and feel for the wedding.

The design ideas for our wedding came from Ivory White and we wanted all the other elements to compliment the stationary. Sugar Creations made an elegant 5 tier wedding cake which was a perfect compliment to the colours and style of our wedding. With regard to décor I did extensive research. Casa De Flores Florists helped with suggestions on the different flowers to match my colours. With a clear idea of what I wanted. I showed all my suppliers pictures and ideas of the overall picture I wanted to create and had to source the rentals, linen, draping and chair covers from different suppliers.

We both worked hard together to achieve our perfect day, the only difficulty being my indecisiveness which added to the stress as I analysed every decision so thoroughly. In the end everything on that day was just perfect. We couldn’t have asked for anything better. ”

