



The Art of décor

Limited only by your imagination, the décor options are mind boggling. This is why décor is so exciting. The décor at a function does much more than make the venue look pretty, it creates the whole dreamy atmosphere of weddings and echoes the romance and beauty of the occasion.

More importantly, it is able to define the style and character of the couple, giving every wedding an identity of its own. In the past décor was all about the flowers, but these days people have realised that décor is much broader than this. In response, décor companies now offer a massive range of décor options, beautiful fabrics in

every colour of the rainbow, and even furniture to complete the picture. The bride has huge freedom to create something special. The venue is an essential part of the dream wedding nurtured for many years by the bride. Once booked however, the venue itself may be unable to complete the picture. Different venues suit different themes and so the décor and the venue are inseparable.





Photo: Neil Weideman

The venue itself should never dictate the look and feel on its own. The venue should offer a fairly neutral interior which acts as a blank canvas for your theme. This means though that even the venue cannot be considered in isolation. The more complete the décor picture is in your mind, the more suitable will be your choice of venue.

Couples must also be careful that the décor specialists themselves do not direct the couple down a side road that is not truly their own, but rather determined by the specialists preferences and their own stock. This is why it is so important to explore all the options that are available before you book your décor and specialist. You need to find a specialist who understands the couple and their needs and have the skill and integrity to be able to deliver. So, shop around until you understand what you want and have sufficient expertise to select.

The biggest mistake that many brides make is by having a vision that is too small. Often couples can think only of the décor around the table or the flowers in the front of the Chapel and

cannot comprehend the big picture. The look and feel of your wedding begins with the invitations and the theme needs to be carried through from the moment the guests arrive at the venue until the last song is played.

Because the subject is so vast, we have decided to explore four of the many options to help brides choose the look and feel. This is not definitive, but rather a tool to point you in the right direction. We approached Erna from Café Fleur to assist us. Erna has fifteen years of experience working not only with Café Fleur, but also at Oakfield. She has the amazing ability to quickly assess her clients' basic style, reflected in the way they dress, how their hair is styled and the jewellery or accessories that they wear and the manner in which they talk about their wedding. If this is not clear, a chat about their taste in furniture and the favourite colour in their wardrobe soon helps identify the basic style and theme. Clients are by no means compelled to use Café Fleur for their décor, as they offer their décor for rental to individuals directly as well as to many of the well known wedding specialists.





Photo: Irene Quist

Silver

There is nothing quite so elegant and sophisticated as a wedding that is decorated in silver. Silverware sends a timeless message of good taste which can be both formal or semi-formal. Either way, the beautiful shimmer of silver will give your wedding the perfect look. In the past, silverware was limited, however modern techniques have replaced the traditional silver plating that tarnishes easily and is prone to scratching. These days, chrome and stainless steel derivatives have made the style cost effective. Used on a large scale, nobody will notice and the effect is none the less dramatic. Some of the most lovely silverware available these days even includes the use of other materials with a range of colours which proves just how versatile this amazing colour is. Silver also drives the colour of the linen. Pastel hues go well, as do the dark deep rich tones. Even if silver is not the primary colour of your wedding, it will create a soft, beautiful glow. It does, however, ask for more sophisticated linen of better quality.

Cream draping and fairy lights also go well with silver, but take care as not all colours will work with this combination. The extent to which silver can be used is entirely up to you. Unless you hire in special cutlery and ice buckets, silver will always feature somewhere in every wedding. Silver embossing with silver ribbon on your invitations will complete your theme of elegance and sophistication. Naturally, the bride and her bridesmaids may want to wear silver to complete a perfect picture.

We cannot begin to explore all the various silver options available, but there is something for everybody. Silver is a worthy choice for wedding décor. It is so versatile, always elegant, and always in style.



Photo: Adam Hilton





Photo: Patrick Furter



Photo: Adam Hilton



Photo: Eyescape



Photo: Norman Dent



Photo: Patrick Furter



Photo: Gilda Harris

Rust

Many modern brides are opting for a rust theme. Because rust is a process and not a colour, it is ever changing and this mix of earthy, natural colours works so well against the backdrop of a wedding. Weddings are by definition quite stiff formal events. The very nature of rust is one of being unpretentious. It suggests a link with the past and gives your wedding an 'easy come, easy go' style that is endearing.

Rust is able to blend harmoniously with more ornate décor styles to create an ambience all of its own. With rust as the backdrop of your décor, the richness of satin and soft creams will be beautifully reflected in your wedding couture. Of course, the Autumn and Winter weddings are just perfect for this theme. Gerberas, leaves, sticks, bark and succulents work well, as do candles and roaring log fires. Rust needs a good contrast to be effective and table linen must not be too dark. It is enhanced by crystals which reflect the light to help the decor come alive. Rust works beautifully with ivory, off-white or soft pink roses, a visual mix reminiscent of ice-cream, chocolate and marshmallows. A rust theme also lends itself to chunky informal décor.

As rust is enjoying a revival at present there is a lot of funky stuff on the market. You can have a lot of fun adding this décor to your wedding. Imagine your name or just a heart cut from rusty metal, hanging at the entrance of the venue to greet the guests. After the wedding, these can be hung in your home and garden and will bring back precious memories for many years to come.





Photo: Michelle Loukidis



Photo: Anri Heyns

Photo: Eyescape

Glass

Glass has been around for thousands of years. Always stylish, it can be timeless and traditional, modern and sophisticated, funky and colourful, chic and even bizarre. It is an art form that evolves daily. A visit to your local home store will attest to the variety and popularity of this strange substance.

The transparency of glass allows the décor specialist unlimited, creative freedom from goldfish to pebbles, fruit to fabric, the list is endless. The essence of glass hinges on its reflective capabilities where colours are absorbed and reflected in harmony with the theme. Best of all there is no colour that will not work, nor are you limited to a particular style. Who can deny the elegance of a single bloom in a glass vase? We constantly see weddings where glass has been used in new ways to highlight what would ordinarily have been quite simple décor. On the other end of the spectrum, the dramatic opulence of crystal glasses, glass candelabra and glass base plates is a hard act to follow.

One of the most lovely uses of glass are hanging decorations. These can be delightfully fragile containers holding a single rose bud or crystals hanging from silver candelabra. A whole new avenue is of course, coloured glass. This lends itself beautifully to the colour schemes of weddings and can also be used very effectively as table gifts, whilst also enhancing the décor. While classic pieces of glass are timeless, modern pieces often go out of fashion very quickly. The biggest disadvantage of glass is that it is fragile. Often venues need to be cleared for the next function and it is not uncommon for the couple to receive an unwelcome bill after the function. Nothing offers more opportunity for amazingly original effects. Best of all, it can be very kind on your budget.



Antique Whitewash

Not everybody favours the norm, and although Antique Whitewash is very much in fashion, you can expect this style to be met with enthusiasm for those who enjoy something a little different. The lovely soft colours of white-washed furniture and décor, offers an air of gentle sophistication with a hint of French chic.

It is also great for garden weddings and is ideal for smaller, more intimate occasions. Colours are neutral and Tiffany chairs look great in this setting. There is also a huge potential for ceramic or glass, and this is a natural companion to style. Antique white-wash décor is also harder to come by. Not all décor specialists are familiar with the medium and for this reason alone, it is certainly worth looking at.



Photo: Eyscape



Photo: Norman Dent



Photo: Norman Dent



Photo: Norman Dent



Mix & Match

If the article suggests that you must choose one or the other, you are seriously mistaken. Dare to mix and match and you can reap great rewards. It's all about taking elements out of context and putting them together in new and interesting ways. It is eclectic and the only rule is good taste and a proper balance. You can do exactly as you want, but it can take considerable expertise to hit the right note. With the venue as the stage, we look forward to being a part of your décor dream come true.



Special Invitation

You are invited to attend an open day at Cafe Fleur on the first Saturday of every month and explore the many décor options. You will also have the unique opportunity to meet with: Café Fleur & Cor de Rosa for décor and draping, Merav Events for co-ordination of your wedding, So-De-Lovely for wedding cakes, Tasha Schoeman & Gilda Harris for wedding photography and Von Regen Bridal for wedding couture. See advertisement on page 60 and 61.

OPEN DAYS / MINI EXPO'S

6 Feb 2010	1 May 2010	7 Aug 2010	6 Nov 2010
6 Mar 2010	5 June 2010	4 Sep 2010	4 Dec 2010
3 Apr 2010	3 Jul 2010	2 Oct 2010	15 Jan 2011



Photo: Andrea Carlyle



Photo: Yvonne Vermeulen



Photo: Eyscape