

To find flowers to complement your look, consider build, height, wedding gown style and face shape. For example, if you're petite you don't want flowers that are so large or cascading they overwhelm your look.

floral FANTASY

TRENDS *in Bridal* BOUQUETS *and* CENTERPIECES

WHEN IT COMES TO BLOOMS FOR YOUR BIG DAY, you have a few goals: getting the most for your money and getting amazing bouquets and centerpiece designs. *ChicagoStyle Weddings* helps you out by looking at the latest wedding floral trends.

TEXT BY *Kristen Castillo* | PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Amie Photography*

BRIDESMAID BOUQUETS

The floral look for your maids is often similar to the bride's, except bridesmaid bouquets are usually smaller and a bit more colorful.

For bridesmaids, citrus colors like orange, yellow, lime, mango and hot pink are popular.

Having each bridesmaid carry a different bouquet is another wedding floral trend. This works well when bridesmaids also wear individual dress styles.

One bridesmaid idea? "Shades of pink," says Tassie Tagarelli of *Instincts Design Studio Limited*. "Go from hot pink to pale pink. It's a lot more fun like that. It's not so stuffy and it's more interesting."

CENTERPIECES

Your centerpieces set the tone for your reception décor. Typically these arrangements match your bouquet in color and style.

“The demand for small centerpieces is unbelievable,” says Harney who offers a round ivy bowl with six roses for \$15. For an extra \$3.50, the centerpieces can be lit up.

“They can get a full wedding of flowers – with three, four or five bridesmaids – with centerpieces for \$1,000 to \$1,200,” adds Harney. “That’s the lowest price out there.”

“We do all the tables different,” says Tagarelli. “They all blend together but each one is different.”

For example, one table might have white hydrangeas; another table has white orchids; a third table has white peonies. The white is the unifying theme, but all the blooms are different.

“A big collection of different things work together,” says Tagarelli. “People are wowed. It’s different than what they’re used to.”

Complement centerpieces with mirrors, candles and other adornments. “We always complete the look with lighting crystals and garland,” says Tagarelli. “It creates interest and texture.”

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TEXT BY *Kristen Castillo*

10. Small details. Little touches go a long way. For example, spending a few extra dollars to dress up your reception tables will be worth the effort.

Embellishments like sparkly gems, fabric and feathers can add interest to table settings. Tassie Tagarelli of *Instincts Design Studio Limited* says peacock feathers and ostrich feathers are used in moderation in bouquets and centerpieces for “a little bit of texture.”

“We never leave napkins plain, even if it’s just a simple ribbon,” says Tagarelli who finishes a table’s décor with candles, petals and linens. “It’s all the small touches. Anything that makes it look like the bride really thought about it and went out of her way to make it unique.”

Chair covers are another way to dress up a simple chair. Check out the chair cover selections rental companies have to offer.

Wedding trends come and go, but creating a memorable wedding ceremony and reception has staying power. You won’t regret going big on style for small details like chair covers and centerpieces. Look for, and use, special touches to make your party stand out from others. ❖