

modern BRIDAL



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Before you pick your gown, make sure to read up on this year's hottest trends. Clockwise from right: See what's right for you from a flirtier hemline (Benefit by Amy Kuschel, recycled duchess silk satin fabric scraps, \$1,480), or asymmetrical draping (Justine by Anna Maier Ulla Maija, duchess satin and silk gazar, \$4,770), to a beaded belt (Indulge Sash by Amy Kuschel, silk taffeta with a French lace appliqué, \$600).



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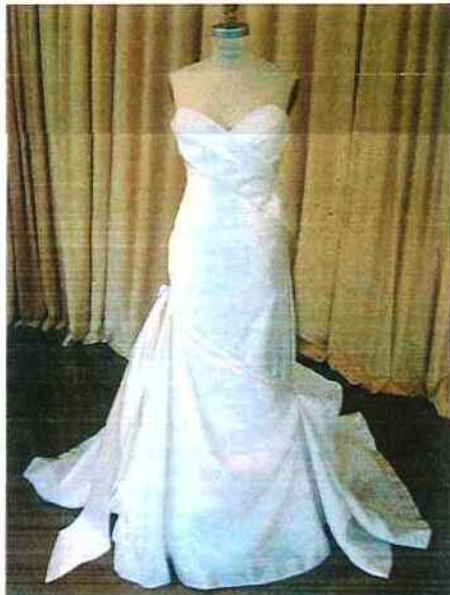


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Sneak Preview: 2009 Wedding Trends

Discover the top 10 trends in wedding fashion and beauty

By Kate Pezalla

Weddings are a cultural tradition, so it makes sense that bridal styles are slow to change. Change and tradition aren't mutually exclusive, but, well, we can't remember the last time we went to a Western wedding where the bride didn't wear white.

Where weddings evolve is in the details, the accents that allow a bride to express individuality without effacing the idea of the wedding ritual. The trends of 2009 in fashion and beauty reflect this. Many pay homage to couture of past decades, some slyly tweak the standards in ways that will likely be iconic — trends that will never appear trendy.

1. Shoe clips: These gorgeous, yet neglected accessories were a fashion staple in the '50s and '60s, explains Crisa Barrriball of Absolutely Audrey (www.absolutelyaudrey.com), a California company that's reviving the shoe clip. Like costume earrings, they clip on, immediately dressing up any shoe without causing damage. They can be crafted from vintage earrings or brooches, or made new to match your wedding. We're especially drawn to the fact that you can wear them again and again. "I still wear my clear rhinestone shoe clips from my wedding," says Barrriball, "and every time I clip them on my black stilettos, I think of the time I wore them down the aisle on my white satin slingbacks!"

2. It's a cinch: Belts are big this year. Think tulle sashes in your wedding color or a thin lace boasting an oversized silk bloom that encircles your waist. For a Grecian look with loose shift dresses, silver strands braided into a wide belt will define your figure through the cascades of fabric.

3. Captivating capes: In sheer materials, capes offer a twist on the veil, imparting the same romanticism with a new grace. Capes can tie at the throat and reach the floor for a fairy-tale effect, or capelets can cap bare shoulders for a youthful display of modesty. For wintery weddings, choose fine knits or faux-fur trims. They look seasonally appropriate when too much skin comes off as impractical, and the texture will contrast with your gown to add depth to your look.

4. Cosmetics that keep it real: For makeup advice, we consulted Kimara Ahnert, whose eponymous studio on Madison Avenue in New York is a destination for brides (www.kimara.com). "My philosophy for makeup, especially wedding makeup, is to look as natural as possible," says Ahnert. "I feel a bride should always look like herself, just enhanced. I never want a bride to look back at her wedding pictures and say, 'What was I thinking?'" To that end, avoid colors that scream trendy. Work with your locale and design scheme, but if you've never worn eyeliner in a berry metallic before, a highly photographed day isn't a great time to start.

5. When in Rome... or even on Telegraph Hill, wear as the Romans did. Gladiator-style sandals remain ubiquitous, and that's a blessing for brides. These dramatic shoes are easy to find and match to your dress (hint: Metallics match practically everything).



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Above: Add some bling to your toes with these unique shoe clips by Absolutely Audrey (Left: Maxine, \$35; on shoes: Zoe, \$30). Choose from an array of gorgeous bridal embellishments or a custom set to match your look.

6. Leggy lengths: Floor-grazing extravaganzas don't suit every bride's style, and designers are responding by raising hemlines. Consider the image you'd like to convey. For example, sweet bubble skirts that hit the knee hint at playfulness and whimsy, while longer pencil skirts are very grown-up and mod. A tea-length — which typically ends near the top or high middle of the calf — is generally the safest take on an alternative hem.

7. Ready for your close up? Don't go nude! As professional wedding photography and videography industries grow, brides are gaining a new awareness of how they'll look in print and on film. "Brides have to think about what will photograph well," explains Ahnert. "The 2008 trend of a very nude lip wouldn't work for wedding makeup because in a photograph the bride will look washed out."

8. Play with angles: Asymmetry is in full swing for 2009. Necklines swoop, ruffles and pleats adorn just one side and huge bows pop up on a single shoulder, leaving the other artfully exposed.

9. Color coordination: Wedding palettes change every year, shifting based on what's been overdone in recent seasons and what's seen in mainstream fashion. "It seems that the 2009 weddings are trending toward more exotic and brighter colors," says Ahnert. "I think we'll see a lot of peaches and pinks in 2009, whether it's in makeup, dresses or accents." Jessica Vartoughian, "the First Lady of Nails" and founder of Jessica Cosmetics International (www.jessicacosmetics.com), agrees: "Pink, pink and more pink. Pink will be a strong color this season, and the shades will range from classic pastels and sheer pinks to shocking pink for a modern twist."

10. Nail it naturally: Vartoughian also notes that 2009 will herald the return of the long, natural nail. She started her career in the early '70s — Barbra Streisand and Diana Ross were clients — and sees that decade's nail trend returning. Keep nails strong and healthy by massaging cuticle oils and creams into your cuticles and nails daily.