

THE ATLANTAN

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# Brides

Wedded

BLISS!

RUNWAY REPORT: THE HOTTEST GOWNS FOR 2010  
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EAT, DRINK AND BE MARRIED! > *Marvelously Modern Cakes*  
*Punch Drunk Love (The Bowl Is Back)* > RADIANT RINGS  
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Bridal design beauty  
Annette Thurmon and one  
of her custom creations.

## Maiden To Order

It's hard to imagine any dress not looking perfect on 26-year-old nurse-cum-fashion designer Annette Thurmon. Nearly six feet tall with model good looks, Thurmon was frustrated with finding her dream dress while planning her wedding three years ago, so she decided to design her own gown—and a business was born. Currently experimenting with convertible designs (a removable strap here, an invisible layered skirt there), her Chaviano Bridal Couture creations give brides the option of changing the length or style of their dress throughout the big day. “I always say there are no rules, only possibilities,” says Thurmon. “I want my brides to look back on their wedding day and say, ‘I loved every aspect of my gown.’” We caught up with the Atlanta transplant about the design process and the wedding dress that started it all.

**Describe your wedding dress.** It was form-fitting with a flare at the bottom and gathering from the bust to the hem. For a personal touch, I had our initials embroidered on my sash, which I fastened with a family heirloom brooch.

**How do you get the creative juices flowing?** I meet with the bride four to six months prior to the wedding. Once we have a design vision, there are three more appointments, beginning with the muslin fitting with our seamstress. The gown is made to fit the bride's body, so there are usually no alterations involved.

**And the price range?** The simplest designs start at \$2,000, with price points as high as \$5,000. I also give my brides a dress box with their original sketch and swatches of the fabrics we used. It's a memory of the design journey that clients can share with their daughters one day.

*Chaviano Bridal Couture is available at The Bridal Bar Atlanta, 4511 Olde Perimeter Way, Suite 600, 770.366.0072, chavianocouture.com. —Alison Miller*

### Picture It!

After months of searching, you found the perfect dress. So what's a bride to do after the big day? For a modern twist on the traditional dress portrait, watercolor sketches and avant-garde photographs will preserve your fashion statement with a work of art that goes beyond the photo album.

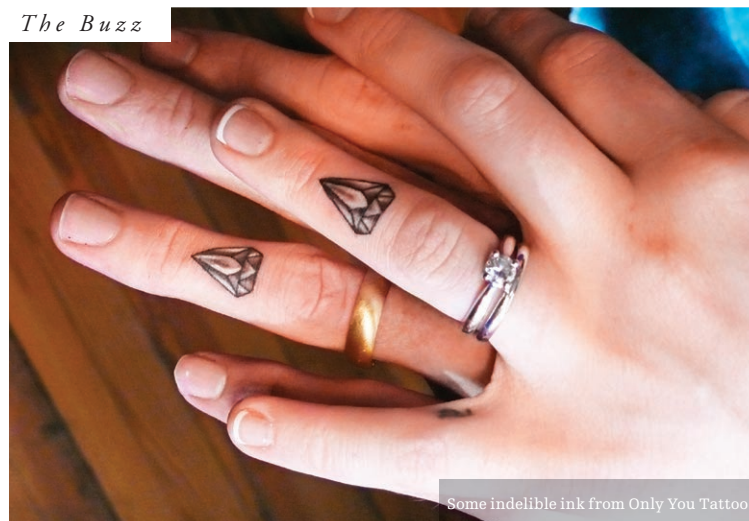


A dress sketch from Kristina Bailey.

**PAINT IT WHITE** Kristina Bailey's gown sketches come across as more haute couture art than typical watercolor. We think it's because she views the wedding dress as a subject of individuality. “The wedding gown is the signature piece that reflects the bride's style,” says Bailey. “It's a self-portrait of who they are on their special day.” 404.432.8641, [kbbailydesigns.com](http://kbbailydesigns.com).

**AWE, SNAP!** Dorothy O'Connor's sometimes haunting, yet stunning photographs of wedding gowns fully capture every inch of tulle and silk after the ceremony. She connects to the dresses on a personal level, explaining: “I feel like the wedding dress itself is so iconic. ...These dresses seem to have their own story.” 404.307.8692, [weddingdressportrait.com](http://weddingdressportrait.com). —Dana Hazels Seith

### The Buzz



Some indelible ink from Only You Tattoo.

## Tattoo You

Marriage is forever (or at least it's supposed to be), so what cooler way to say “I do” than with a tattoo? There isn't, according to the couples frequenting Only You Tattoo in Grant Park. Co-owner Danielle Distefano says the trend in couple tattoos is “a new, more permanent take on showing commitment.” Distefano also notes, “Friends of mine [with matching tattoos] tell me they feel committed to their partners in ways no one could understand.” We're not talking simple wedding bands either. Couples get everything from diamonds to intertwined elephant trunks. Beyoncé and Jay-Z reportedly got “VI” on their ring fingers before their wedding, and each of the Beckhams inked up to commemorate a decade of love—so haute. *Only You Tattoo*, 404.659.4900, [onlyyoutattoo.com](http://onlyyoutattoo.com). —L.N.W.



## Pleased As Punch

An old Southern wedding tradition rises once more

| By Dana Hazels Seith | Photography By Jason Spruill |

As couples search for their signature wedding cocktail, an old tradition is being revisited and revamped. Style-setters from Martha Stewart to Colin Cowie are swapping the cocktail shaker for a punch bowl, and serving up a new twist on the treasured Southern tradition—and Atlanta's top caterers have followed suit with their own takes on the power of punch.

Tony Conway, president and owner of **A Legendary Event** (404.351.0769, [legandaryevents.com](http://legandaryevents.com)), has a playful approach to the resurgence with his almost deconstructed version—the Sorbet Punch Shot. His recipe incorporates melon ball-sized homemade coconut sorbet and fruit punch concentrate (mixed with equal parts of water and vodka) shaken over ice and placed in a shot glass. He recalls serving the shooter at one wedding, filling guests with nostalgia: “We passed them out on the dance floor with miniature cotton candies, so it was sort of like going back to when you were a kid.”

Coconut also works its way into **Carole Parks Catering's** (404.872.1999, [cparkscatering.com](http://cparkscatering.com)) snowy punch called Christmas de Cacao. The recipe calls for Irish whiskey, cognac, Amaro Averna and Marie Brizard dark crème de cacao all served in a tulip glass. “Our punch ice mold has coconut shavings that are frozen in the bowl,” explains Morgan Henzlik, the

company's event designer, “so it looks like there's snow there, too.”

**The Hungry Peach's** (404.816.9009, [thehungrypeach.com](http://thehungrypeach.com)) recipe has a down-home element with a punch of peach, of course. Atlanta native and co-owner Conor Hubbard keeps her concoctions filled with Southern tradition. “It's kind of an old-school sort of a church punch with the sherbet, which is a fun twist,” she says. Her Georgia Peach Punch is made with a brown sugar and orange juice simple syrup infused with cinnamon; ginger ale, vodka and an orange sherbet mold complete the recipe. In lieu of glassware, Hubbard serves the punch from classic Mason jars.

For couples who like things sweet and sour, **Soiree Catering & Events'** (404.467.1699, [soireeatlanta.com](http://soireeatlanta.com)) chef/owner Mary Hataway's Raspberry Aperitif Punch is a refreshing blend of frozen raspberries, sugar, ginger ale, lemon juice, fresh ginger, and vanilla and almond extracts. (We recommend serving it as a light cordial—just add any liquor—during cocktail hour.)

“Punch conveys that vision of lovely entertaining,” says Hataway, adding that the practical perks are not to be overlooked. The chic sophistication of decades past all in one fabulous communal cocktail? We'll drink to that any day. ●

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