



## BREAK THE MOLD ON SPRING WEDDINGS!



By Maureen Hart

It's spring, an ideal time of year to plan your wedding. After all, it is traditionally a season of renewal and rebirth, the perfect time to start a new life together.

If you enjoy this season, but not so much the Easter egg hues associated with it, try to think outside the box. Instead of pastel pinks and lavenders, be more daring and try for tropical shades such as aqua or lime green. You can accent these colors with pink, tangerine, or a bright yellow. Just think of a typical pastel shade and crank it up a notch for more flair—turquoise instead of robin's egg blue; fuchsia instead of petal pink; bright purple instead of lilac; chartreuse instead of mint green. Then add an equally daring accent color for flowers and/or accessories: lemon yellow, orange, hot pink, chocolate brown, royal blue. Mix and match until you find a combination that is exciting.



These days, colors can be mixed and matched in any season—so a spring bride can still choose a dramatic black for an evening wedding, although maybe cocktail length would work better than a long skirt. Her bridesmaids might carry bright pink flowers as a nod to the season.



Another way to look at things is to play up the season. Instead of a monochromatic color scheme, choose floating chiffon dresses with a spring floral design. Instead of an old-fashioned look, go with spaghetti straps or a strapless bodice, with an asymmetrical skirt, or an uneven hemline. Add strappy sandals with high heels, or no heels at all, instead of traditional pumps. To offset the floral design, choose a monochromatic bouquet, picking up one of the fabric colors, or in all-white or cream.

Most brides take pains to avoid the religious holidays of Easter or Passover for their spring weddings, but you can easily plan a big bash for Memorial Day. Think about dramatic red strapless, knee length dresses with blue and white flowers, or always fashionable navy with crisp white accents.

St. Patrick's Day precedes the official advent of spring by a few days, but couples of Irish descent can plan around that holiday with a spring green motif (skip the shamrocks!) or a nod to the Celtic with program and invitation designs, or an Irish menu.

Do not be limited by the unpredictable weather—even an outdoor reception in tents can be comfortable with the addition of large heaters, while late spring garden weddings are enhanced by the profusion of blooms for which the season is so loved. Think forsythia and azaleas accenting your reception hall. In May, a bride can use lilacs for a motif which is particularly lovely with pale green dresses.