



HEDI AGHAJANI TO MICHAEL SCOTT SHANKLETON

AUGUST 15, 2008

Writer: Meredith Wierick Photographer: John Ly

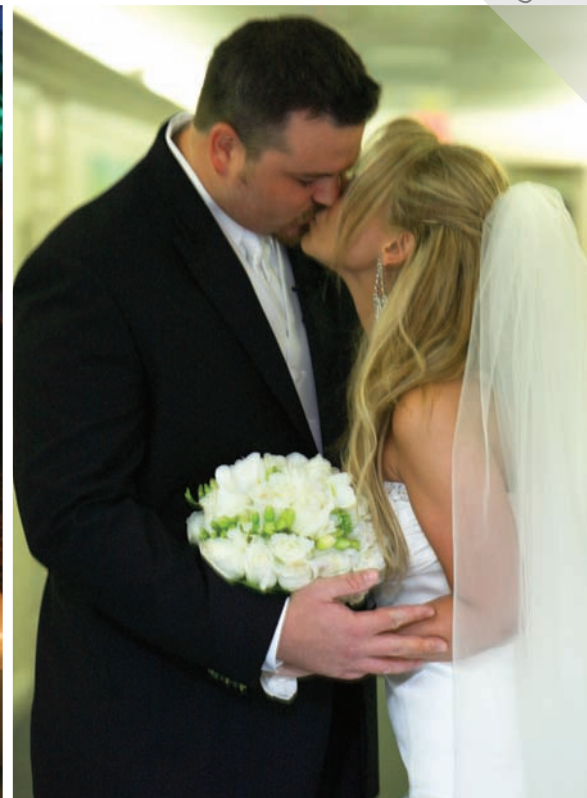
When it was time for Hedi Aghajani to plan her wedding to Michael Scott Shankleton, she didn't have to look far for a reception site: Courtyard on St. James, where Hedi is the director of events and catering.

With Jo Ann Woodward of Schwartz & Woodward, Hedi planned her ceremony at Westminster United Methodist Church. She wore a Romona Keveza gown from Louise Blum while Michael wore a tuxedo from Al's Formal Wear. The bride carried a bouquet ornamented with crystals and peacock feathers created by Events in Bloom.

Working closely with vendors as part of her job and having them as close friends, Hedi had an insider's knowledge of whom to contact to make the reception look stunning and run smoothly.

"My planning was so simple because I used talented, dependable vendors. I never had to second-guess a single thing. I knew every-





thing would be taken care of.”

Thanks to the help of Darryl Murchison of Darryl & Co., not a detail was overlooked. The designer transformed the Courtyard on St. James from Hedi’s workplace into the reception site of her wedding fantasies. The reception room featured tables with elegant linens, lounge areas, canopies, tree-lined staircases and beautiful draping.

“I didn’t recognize the place! With little or no input from me, it was as if he read my mind. It fit me perfectly,” the grateful bride says. “He and his staff worked diligently for three days transforming a place I see daily to something out of a dream.”

Attendees sipped blueberry mojitos and pear martinis while enjoying an elaborate food display that included sushi, Persian wedding rice, enchiladas, ceviche spoons, lamb, Kobe beef sliders and a French fry station. Cakes by Gina created a delicious wedding cake and Edible Designs by Jessie designed the groom’s cake. As favors, guests enjoyed sweet treats from a candy buffet.

Hedi attributes the ease of her wedding to the professionalism of her vendors. She advises brides-to-be, “Hire the best people you can and let them do their jobs!”

