

Satin seems to be the latest word in bridal fabrics. Once strictly the province of winter weddings, satin now makes its spring and summer debut in gossamer-weight wovens that incorporate every imaginable design in the weave of the material itself.



This bridal "rear view" illustrates the cascades of romantic ruffles predicted to be the height of bridal fashion in the coming wedding season. The gown is a European import, available at Bridal Gallery.

## ies: The picture of romanticism

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show, seem to be making a comeback, during this 50th anniversary year of the publication of Margaret Mitchell's Civil War epic, *Gone With the Wind*. A rainbow collection of these bouffant-skirted, period dresses made a handsome showing in bridesmaids' gowns, many accessorized by ruffled parasols, in pink, lavender, turquoise, fire-engine red, and lavender with white stripes (the last presenting a sort of "canopy" effect, hemmed by layers of ruffles).

Accompanying a brazen-looking, black, hoop-skirted dress with a pink ruffled underskirt was a mid-calf length dress that featured a black bodice and white, polka-dotted shoulder bands. White moire silk was accented with a black diagonal bodice in a dress that gave the effect of a beauty-contest banner. Most effective among these featured period looks was a bright red, hoop-skirted flower girl's dress in ankle length, paired with the outfit worn by a "junior usher," humorously decked out as Cupid, complete with white tights and a bow and arrow. This miniature Eros presented the youthful "Scarlett" with a box of Valentine candy — and later traded a kiss with a female audience member, who was then presented with a single rose.

An array of 15 prom dresses, also available at Bridal Gallery, was paraded past the predominantly youthful audience near the end of the show. Colors included valentine red, and fuchsia with black dots; one black, strapless dress featured a fuchsia sash, while three of the most original, shown in black, royal blue, or red, had strapless, heart-shaped bodices.

Among the most dramatic looks in attendants' gowns as well as ushers' tuxes were the least traditional ensembles in the entire collection. One pink bridesmaid's dress featured a curved hemline, lifted in front, and a short-sleeved bolero jacket with an upturned collar. No lace or frills encumbered either this simple, elegant design or a similar one in powder-blue taffeta. The latter had a low, windowpane back with a narrow tie across the shoulder blades, 3/4-length sleeves, and a full, gathered skirt falling softly from a wide, slightly dropped waistline.

Interesting looks for men included a gray or black shadow-weave fabric, and the acknowledged show-stealers of the afternoon: a series of tuxedos in "passionate bursts of color," billed as "the Miami Vice Collection" and accompanied by the infamous instrumental theme of the hit TV show. Frivolous but visually invigorating, these tuxes featured such unusual colorations as a royal blue jacket, a white

jacket with aqua tie and cummerbund, a rose jacket and cummerbund, and the inevitable tribute to the Flower City: a lilac jacket with a white shirt and pants. A few of the bridesmaids' dresses were also fashioned, although somewhat more garishly, in lilac.

Floral offerings included the simple, country look of floral baskets, the traditionally romantic floral cascade, round nosegays, circular wreath bouquets (billed as "symbols of everlasting love"), and petals dropped on the runway like fairy-tale trails of bread crumbs, marking out an enchanted path.

The show's finale was marked by a return to romanticism, in the form of a gorgeous, cathedral-length, summer satin ensemble, accented by Alencon lace, bouffant upper sleeves, tapered lower sleeves, an illusion bodice and seed-pearl embroidery at the neckline. The train was hemmed with a veritable waterfall of gossamer-thin ruffles, and the entire ensemble was crowned with a picture-perfect "portrait hat." This European import, although extravagantly ruffled, had no trace of a veil to clutter up the final frame in this elaborate, advance viewing of summer bridal fantasies.

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