

Bridal Trends 2011

Wedding dresses are set to become more feminine and glamorous than ever before. That's according to Lady Marmalade's Lani du Plessis, who reports for Wedding Inspirations from SPOSAITALIA COLLEZIONI, Milan's annual bridal fair that took place recently.

1 THE SKIRT

It's been some time now that the design focus has fallen on the skirt of wedding gowns. Well it's getting more so, with even more emphasis on pulled up skirts and embellishments such as roses, butterflies and feathers. Skirts are busy, busy, busy.



2 THE BOW

Sashes are a big trend for next year. From the simple satin sash, to dramatic organza bows, everyone is finishing off their gowns with a bow.



3 ANYTHING ROMANTIC

There's far less sophistication and much more romance to next year's wedding dresses. The lines are softer and a big trend is to cover the entire creation in a layer of tulle. It can transform any dress into something dreamy and romantic.



4 FLOWERS

Flowers are everywhere. From subtle prints to large roses on the shoulders, bustier or skirts, this is a major trend in next's year's bridal look.



5 ONE SHOULDER DRESSES

The assymetrical look is popular overseas but it's never taken off in South Africa. The single shoulder could be a simple tulle strip and is often adorned with flowers.



6 THE MERMAID LINE

A new take on the dropped waist, the mermaid line skirt is fitted until the knee, and then flares out. This is a real 50s Hollywood glam trend and requires body perfection.



7 THE 3-D EFFECT



With so much decoration on the skirts - look out for butterflies and petals, in particular - there's a strong three-dimensional effect coming into fashion. It gives something of a sculptural effect to the dress, as opposed to simply layers of ruffles.

8 LAYERING

Frills are out and layers are in. By using different fabrics in layer upon layer, skirts are being turned into textured creations that are more sophisticated than over-ruffled meringues. One single skirt, for example, could be made up of layered taffeta, organza and tulle.



9 THE BACK

Finally, designers have realised that for much of the wedding ceremony, the bride's back is the focus of everyone's attention. Dresses are now being designed with this fact in mind and back details are gorgeous. Look out for diamante or tulle details as well as a unique brooch to add glamour.

10 DELICATE PRINTS

The classic white or off-white wedding dress will never go out of fashion, but next year sees a subtle affection for delicate prints. Painted fabrics are even getting a showing.

