

The Bridal Extravaganza

Balloons and Decorations

While some party spaces require little or no embellishment, others offer a blank canvas with unlimited potential for decoration. In the right hands, elements such as flowers, balloons, lights, and ice sculptures can fill a room with mood and ambience.

Balloons

Once limited to child's play, balloons have become as versatile as flowers as a design tool. Professional balloon decorators can create a look as formal or as festive as your wedding demands.

At the ceremony, pearl white balloon arches can highlight the pews. The wedding motorcade can include "Just Married" and "I Love You" balloons—far prettier and less noisy than cans.

Balloon sculptures can accent any reception site. Centerpieces consisting of mylar hearts attached by mylar ribbons glimmer throughout the evening. Large bouquets of richly colored balloons or balloon clouds, anchored by weights, give the dance floor fairytale charm. Swirling balloon arches can spotlight the head table and your bridal party. Ask your balloon professional about environmentally friendly balloons.

Decorations

First impressions help set the tone for an evening, and so think hard about how various decorative touches will come together as your guests step into the reception hall.

The arbor of flowers used for the ceremony can serve as a background for the head table or entranceway. The church candelabra can bring the romance of candlelight to the reception room. Tulle and fairy lights can change any room into a romantic wonderland.

Consider renting accent items, such as lattice, topiaries or large plants to fill in large empty spaces, or effectively divide a large room into several smaller sections.

A personalized sign is important to have and should be placed on a tripod beside the guest registrar. If your reception is in a hotel or club where there may be other functions taking place, a sign will reassure your guests that they do indeed have the right room. Your reception site may provide this.

Table Decorations

Table skirting and accents of flowers, greens and babies breath will showcase your bridal, cake and gift tables.

Candles or a lighted fountain can give the cake a more dramatic backdrop. A trellis made of lattice looks lovely surrounding a small sized cake table. Decorated in lights and flowers, it makes a beautiful focal point for the cake, and it can also surround a decorative drinking fountain or ice sculpture.

Fabric draped behind the head table and used as garland over table skirting can create a regal effect for the bridal table. A low floral centerpiece placed directly in front of the bride and groom will add beauty and color to photographs. Again, candelabra set at either side of the table will set that romantic mood. The bridal and bridal party bouquets can be placed

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strategically on the table to complete the look.

Centerpieces (silk, floral or balloon) should accent guest tables. Fabric table overlays done in your wedding colors, or napkins and linen table covers done in accenting colors, add the perfect finishing touch. Be sure the catering director knows what you want done with the linens at the end of the evening if you brought them in yourself.

Decorative Backgrounds

Larger design elements can transform a rather plain reception facility (always check with your reception facility before planning any of these).

If you have a large, one-room hall and wish to divide off an area for the bar, latticework decorated with floral cascades offers an attractive solution. You may wish to section off an unused part of the room with lattice if you're having a smaller affair. Lattice also makes a good place to hide unused tables, chairs, etc.

Another idea to dress up a large (or perhaps dark) reception hall is a gazebo. A gazebo can showcase your wedding cake and serve as a backdrop for portraits. With lights and flowers added, the gazebo can be a stunning addition. If you are using the same location for the marriage ceremony and reception, the trellis or gazebo offers a perfect setting to exchange vows.

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Balloons, Backdrops, Table Decorations, etc., and Quantities

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