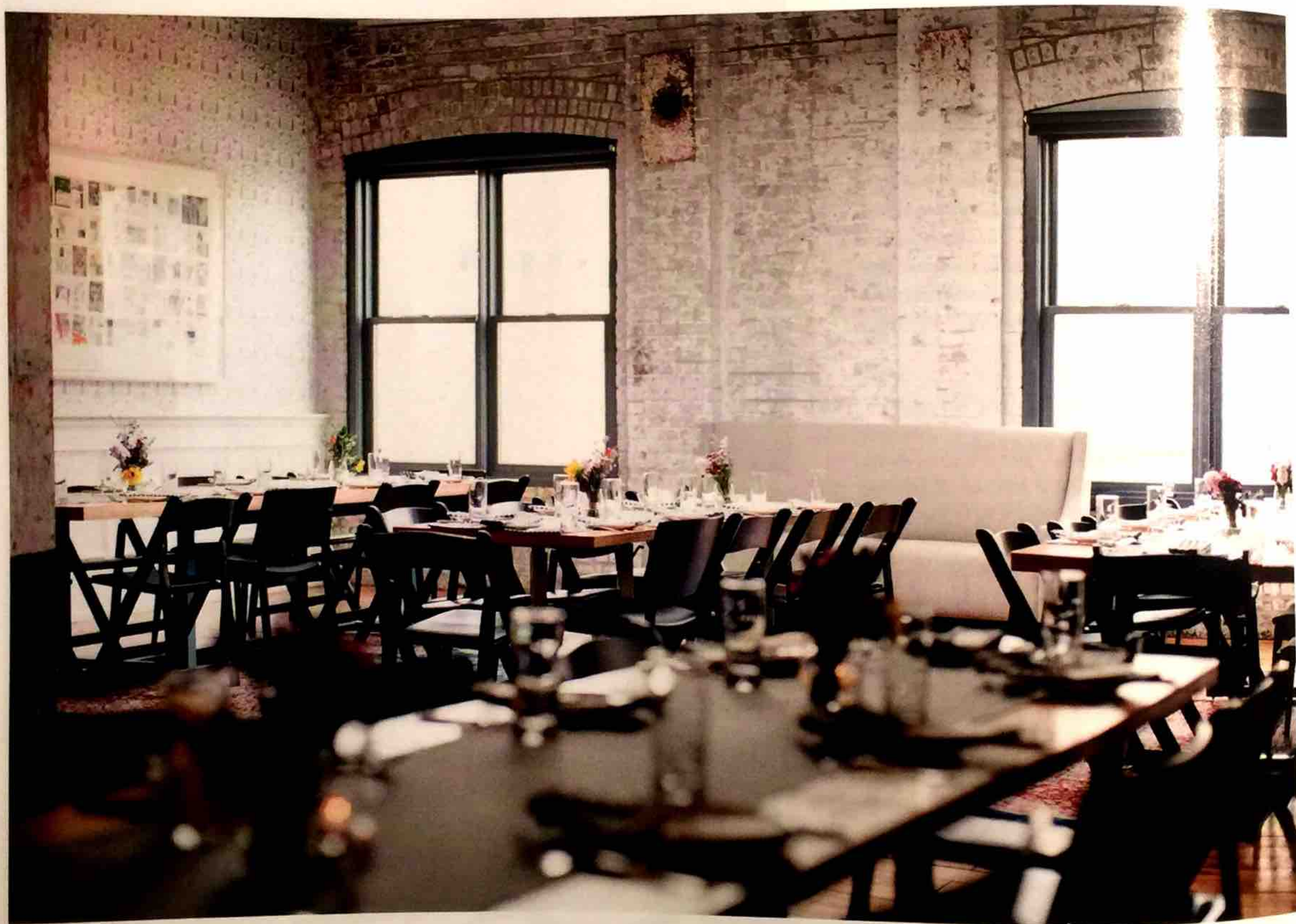


PARTIES

text by JANE CAFFREY

REHEARSAL READY

Top Twin Cities ideas for a perfect pre-wedding soirée.



EXPERT TIPS

GIVE IT THE GROOM'S TWIST

Traditionally, the groom hosts the rehearsal dinner, and it's a chance for his family to show off their unique style.

"Think: What personalizes it for the groom's side of the family? How do we make sure it is something he would like?"

—Sarah Trotter, *Lasting Impressions Weddings*.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

A rehearsal dinner can be just as unique as a wedding.

"Whether it's your favorite cuisine, your favorite strawberry cheesecake or your favorite color scheme, let your closest family and friends celebrate what you two love the most."

—Hana April Chughtai, *Mani Mela*

SEE IT AS A WELCOME PARTY

The rehearsal dinner is an opportunity to introduce your guests to one another.

"Mix up the seating so that your guests get to know each other. New conversations will loosen up the crowd before the big day."

—Amy Zaroff, *Amy Zaroff Events + Design*

BREAK THE ICE

Games are a fun way to help guests strike up conversations. One option: Choose four fun facts about the couple and print them on napkins.

"If you number the facts, then guests want to go and find those napkins and start talking. It's a good ice breaker."

—Amy Zaroff, *Amy Zaroff Events + Design*

IT'S A TIME FOR TOASTS

With the champagne flowing, friends and family are sure to share recollections, but the rehearsal dinner is also an opportunity for the bride and groom to thank their loved ones.

"This is the time for the couple to really honor their wedding party, because they don't get to really do that at the wedding. It's great to say something about why they're special."

—Rachelle Mazumdar, *Style-Architects Weddings + Events*

