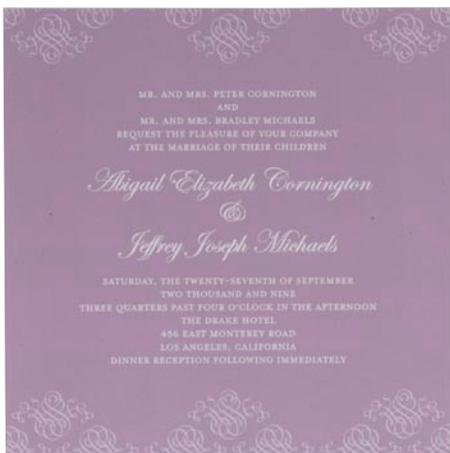


What Will It Cost?

We imagined a formal affair with a purple color scheme, and then went shopping for wedding invitations. Knowing that materials, labor, printing techniques, and quantity are what determine the cost of an invite, we were happy to find stylish designs for every budget. Prices given are for 100 invitations, envelopes, and response-card-and-envelope sets.

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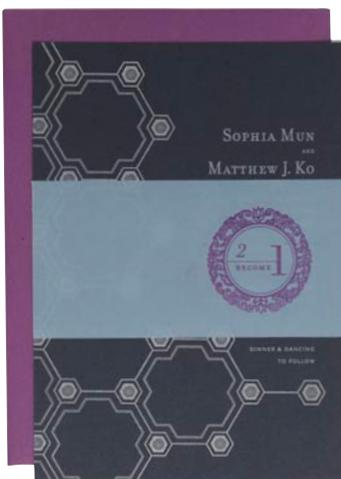
◀ Wedding Scroll, \$269, Wedding Paper Divas

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▲ Floral Veil with Wrap, \$1,237, Vera Wang

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▶ Sophia and Matthew, \$2,280 (includes belly band), Saima Says Design

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THE EXTREME INVITE

This \$80 invite, accented with a jeweled brooch and housed in a douppioni silk box, is a couture collaboration from the Potomac Falls, Va.-based Simply Unique Invitations and the Canadian company Bella Invites. Choose guests wisely.



Proof It!

Imagine your 200 custom invites are mailed with your dad's name as *Ron*. Problem is, his name is *Jon*. Mistakes like this are actually more common than you'd think, but are easily avoided with proofreading, an essential step that couples often ignore or forget. Here are tips from **Sue Gould** of Write On! Invitations and Wedding Planning, in Potomac and Rockville.

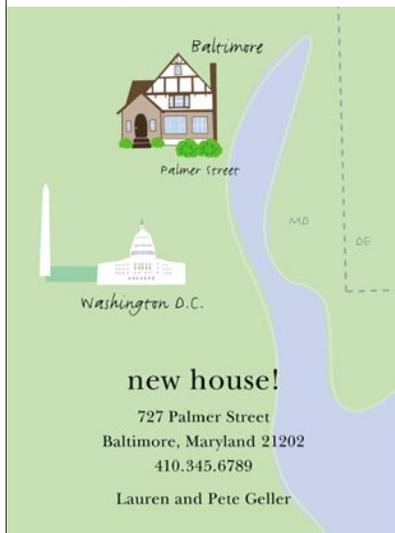
- 1 When proofing the sample (your text printed on plain white paper) or mock-up (your text printed on the actual invitation paper), check the spellings of names and venues, verify the date, time, and venue addresses, and confirm that the directions are accurate (test them out if you have to).
- 2 If you're ordering invitations online, choose a company that will send you

proofs—even if you have to pay extra. Skipping this step could lead to mistakes on the final version.

- 3 “Don't just give your proof a once-over—have several pairs of eyes take a look,” says Sue. “Someone else might catch something you missed.” Your fiancé, your mother, or an eagle-eyed friend are all good options.

🔍 FIND YOUR FLORIST AND STATIONER AT BRIDES.COM/LOCAL

Finding Home



Whether you're moving to a new house or he's just schlepping his Playstation over to yours, send out a formal "at home" card or moving announcement. Friends and family will be more inclined to update their address books with this adorable notification from **Robyn Miller Design** floating around, than with a quickly deleted mass email. Save

postage by including them with your thank-you notes. Price: From \$185 for 50 announcements. Available at Write For You, 202-686-7060

Found It!

STYLISH FAVOR BAGS

You can do better than plain cellophane sacks for the candy buffet or guests' take-home treats. Try a Washington, D.C. (or Baltimore) **Skyline Bag** from Favors You Keep (available in 20 city-scapes). The goody bags come in multiple sizes—the small ones work well for an edible favor and the larger bags are ideal for welcome baskets. The brown paper's artisanal quality works with almost any aesthetic. Cost: From \$60 for 50 bags (ribbon not included). favorsyoukeep.com



THE SWEETEST HANG-OVER

We were fascinated by these hanging arrangements and discovered they were created by florist Sharone Abarjel of **Da Vinci's Florist**, in Silver Spring. Sharone says it's possible to rig up flower globes in most venues. He uses a variety of blooms, from roses to cymbidium orchids. "As long as the flowers have a rounded edge and are relatively sturdy, they'll work," he says.

In the example we found (*right*), Sharone's work was inspired by the bride's home décor. "She loved chandeliers," he says. "She had all of these round, hanging light fixtures in her home and wanted to translate that look into the floral design."

Sharone fashioned the orbs by attaching a variety of flowers—including hydrangeas, pink Esperanza roses, cymbidium orchids, and trachelium—to foam balls soaked in water. He then used fishing wire to suspend the balls from the ceiling of the reception tent. "They felt very feminine, but still had a clean and sophisticated look," Sharone says. Tables were adorned with spheres of the same types of flowers.



Natan Fingerman Photography

Hanging orbs of flowers, including pink Esperanza roses and trachelium, were created by florist Sharone Abarjel, who used wire to suspend them from the ceiling of the tent.