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Finishing touch

Flowers should be part of total picture

Flowers can be the finishing touch at a lovely wedding.

Basically, bridal fashions tend to follow the normal fashion trends, so the coming nuptial season will see many brides trying to recapture the nostalgia looks of the 1940s as well as the Victorian look, which is always big with brides.

"Flowers have to be part of the total picture," said Judi Guspie of the Florist Telegraph Delivery, headquartered in Southfield.

"You can't wear a Victorian gown and carry birds of paradise," she explained. "You would have to go to something daintier or even dried flowers for a colonial look."

Ms. Guspie said there are trendy things one can do with flowers to add to the color and gaiety of a wedding.

"So many people are wearing little hats with face veils now and netting and you can work flowers, little blown roses or mid-century lilies into the netting," she said.

Other ideas are for the bride or her attendants to carry lacy fans with flowers and ribbons for adornment.

"Everything should be casually designed," she said. "The flowers

should look garden fresh and not stiff. You don't want the flowers to look as though they just came out of a florist's refrigerator."

FLOWERS, tiny ones, can be tucked into the gathers, pleats and tucks that appear so often on off-shouldered dresses of brides and bridal attendants.

"And someone who wants a Victorian motif can carry it out by having a dainty parasol to carry with flowers at the handle and the tip," Miss Guspie said. "For an outdoors wedding, the parasol could be entirely covered with flowers."

An important accessory this year also are ribbons, which haven't been too popular recently.

"Many gowns have a low back and come to a V and putting flowers there is quite attractive," she said. "After all, the people in the church see the back of the bride during the entire ceremony."

Other flower creations which add a note of color are floral wreaths which can anchor the netting on a veil.

"Or the bride can have her hair swept up under a crown and put flowers at the nape of her neck," she added. "Flowers tucked into

tiny hair rolls worn so much now add a '40ish mode."

A tiny waisted bride might want to use flowers at the waistline, but here the choice of silk flowers is more practical for durability.


"A single rose worn on a ribbon around the throat is a nice touch for either the bride or members of the wedding party."

AN INEXPENSIVE way for bridesmaids to have a head covering is to simply take netting and attach flowers. "It pulls together a dress design," Ms. Guspie said.

Most commonly used flowers for weddings are roses which are always popular, calla lilies which are old-fashioned but may be expensive and mid-century lilies, less expensive but with a tendency to be out of season.

The arm presentation, with the bride and attendants carrying the flowers in the crook of the arm are still the most popular, some brides favor tiny nosegays and flowers are always the way to add color to an otherwise all-white ensemble.

"And some brides like to mix dried or silk flowers in their bouquet so when they toss it, there is a permanent part of the arrangement for them to keep."



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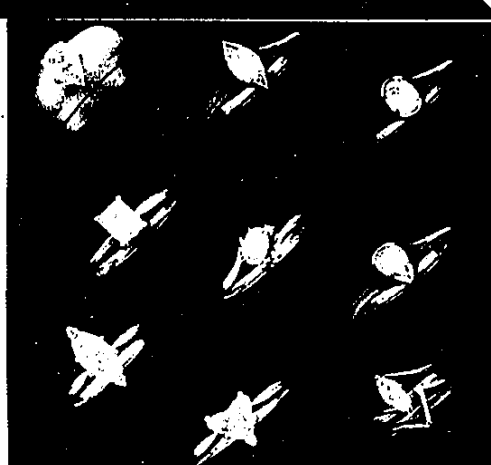
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