



FLORAL DESIGN BY BOTANICALS



# MAKE NO SMALL PLANS

BY ELIZABETH KEMP

**N**EEED SOME TIPS TO GET YOUR WEDDING on the right track? We've asked some of Chicago's most sought after wedding planners to share their ideas and tricks of the trade for sensational seasonal weddings that'll leave soon-to-be-wed guests begging for business cards. Our panel includes a mixture of established veterans and up-and-comers ranging from Linda Alpert, who's been organizing local weddings for 25 years, to hip newcomers Marina Birch and Libby Christopoulos—each known for their unique takes on big day décor and more.

**W I N T E R** — by Marina Birch.

**VIBE:** A scene that imparts the sense of awe, wonder and magic that we experience during the winter season. The feeling is once one of elegance and formality; fun and whimsy. **COLOR:** White is the dominant color, expressed through many textures and saturations from transparent crystals to rich opaque white fabrics. **DECOR:** The ceiling would be hung with thousands of white rose petals and tiny crystals threaded on fishing

wire. **RESOURCES:** *Marina Birch, Birch Design Studio, Ltd., 312.243.7883 for wedding planning. Studio 501, 501 W. Huron St., 312.649.0777, ext. 316 for venue. Botanicals, 773.269.3142, for flowers.*

**S P R I N G** — by Libby Christopoulos.

**SETTING:** An early evening tented ceremony and dinner reception at the Botanic Gardens. **COLORS:** The most fun for me is seeing a bit of spring pop up out of the last wintersnow. I love the contrast of white and green and would carry that inspiration over into an early spring wedding. **ENTRANCE:** I would plant thousands of daffodil bulbs in the fall on either side of the main entrance to the tent. **FAVORS:** At each place setting, guests would find a bulb set in green moss in a white box. Guests could carry them home and plant them to always remember the fun celebration of love and the turning of the new season. **RESOURCES:** *Libby Christopoulos, Dew, Inc., 773.842.4885 for wedding planning. Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe 847.835.8370 for venue. Botanicals, 773.269.3142, for flowers.* ♣