

Nuptials in Nature BY CARLA AVOLIO



Austin's abundant green spaces have been witness to every milestone in Tiffany Miner and Palani Rajan's romance—from meeting through mutual friends while hiking the Greenbelt, to their first date running and swimming in Barton Springs, to the proposal in the company of peacocks at Mayfield Park. So when it came to deciding where to hold their nuptials, there was really only one option. "We wanted to get married at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center because we both love nature and being outside," says Rajan.

And so on an afternoon in late May, the couple stood before 160 friends and family, including Rajan's parents who'd come from India, and made their love official beneath the big Texan sky. In a nod to Rajan's heritage, the bridesmaids wore hot pink and gold saris, Miner's hands and feet were emblazoned with mehndi and the couple said their vows beneath a 100-foot-long green drape brought from India.

TIFFANY MINER & PALANI RAJAN
May 31, 2014

Later, guests headed downtown to the Austin Club for cocktail hour—and a welcome hit of air conditioning. "Being outside was beautiful, but we were all sweating by the end," laughs Miner. Although the couple had initially wanted the entire event to be at the same outdoor venue, the bride's mother pushed for a reception at the swanky East Ninth Street establishment. "In the end I was so grateful," she says. "Mothers know these things."

To bring a touch of nature to the grandiose space, tables covered with hot pink runners were decorated with sustainably grown bouquets brimming with herbs, Texas natives and fuchsia snapdragons. Guests were treated to an all-American feast including lobster BLTs and pan-seared snapper, which culminated in a towering layered cake of baklava, strawberry and chocolate that provided the newlyweds with a lingering reminder of their special day. "The wedding cake was the best," says Rajan. "We were eating it for three weeks afterwards." ●

Held at the colorful Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Miner and Rajan's wedding ceremony blended the couple's cultures.



DETAILS

CEREMONY VENUE
LADY BIRD JOHNSON
WILDFLOWER CENTER

RECEPTION VENUE, CATERING
THE AUSTIN CLUB

PHOTOGRAPHER
PRESSMAN STUDIO

DJ
TEXAS PRO DJ

FLORIST
ECOCHIC FLORAL

LIGHTING
DIY UPLIGHTING

CHAIRS
UNITED RENT-ALL

CAKE
SUGAR MAMA'S BAKESHOP

BRIDAL GOWN
DAVID'S BRIDAL

BRIDESMAID GOWNS
SILK INDIA, HOUSTON



PRESSMAN STUDIO (7)



A Wild, Winter Bash

BY CARLA AVOLIO

The best party our guests had ever been to.” That was the goal Sophie Foreman and James Mann had in mind when planning their February wedding. And judging by the five-hour post-dinner dance party—complete with epic sing-alongs, the bridal party jumping on stage with the band Blind Date and a spin-the-bottle dance-off—it’s safe to say the mission was accomplished.

The Austin-raised couple knew they wanted the vibrant Second Street District to be the setting for their wild, winter bash. “It’s young, up-and-coming and just describes us,” says Foreman, who was born in England. The ceremony was held at Central Christian Church where the bride, dressed in a mermaid-style Romona Keveza gown, arrived with her father in a 1947 Ford Tudor. “It’s a British tradition to make that journey with your dad,” she says.

Afterwards, 200 guests headed around the corner to the modern W Austin Hotel where they entered a sleek banquet space adorned with pure white flowers overflowing from silver vases

and flickering candles in mercury glass. Guests feasted on the likes of barbecue salmon, and the band got things moving with Frank Sinatra covers. It wasn’t long before the whole group was letting loose to a crowd-pleasing mix of golden oldies, country music, pop and rap.

With free-flowing drinks, late-night snacks of empanadas and chicken tenders—even a basket of flip flops passed around the dance floor—the dancing was still in full swing at midnight when the venue started turning off the lights. “We kind of encouraged that to happen,” admits Foreman. Ever the considerate hosts, though, the Manns made sure their guests didn’t pay the price the next morning. “We gave out hangover kits at the end of the night with a personalized koozie, a water bottle and a pack of Advil,” she says. ●

SOPHIE FOREMAN & JAMES MANN
Feb. 22, 2014

The W Hotel Austin provided a modern setting—as well as the cake—for the bride and groom, who did not let any details go unresolved for their winter wedding.



The day began with the bride arriving at Central Christian Church with her dad and ended with a nonstop dance party at the W.



DETAILS

▼

CEREMONY VENUE
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

RECEPTION VENUE, CATERING, CAKE
W HOTEL AUSTIN

PHOTOGRAPHER
CAROLINE + BEN PHOTOGRAPHY

VIDEOGRAPHER
PHOTOHOUSE FILMS

WEDDING PLANNER
BARBARA'S BRIDES

BAND
BLIND DATE

FLORIST
BOUQUETS OF AUSTIN



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PHOTOGRAPH BY SPANISH WIFE INSTANT PHOTOGRAPHY

CAROLINE + BEN PHOTOGRAPHY (6)

Informal Proceedings BY CARLA AVOLIO



After more than a decade in the bar business, Justin Elliott has learned a thing or two about facilitating a good time. “Parties should be given room to breathe rather than being overly scripted,” says the bar manager at Qui and consultant for Remy Cointreau.

It’s precisely this freewheeling spirit that Elliott and Alison Hibbs brought to their September 2013 wedding at Barr Mansion. Their 30-minute-long ceremony, held outdoors in front of the striking Victorian mansion, marked the beginning—and end—of formal proceedings. “I felt like the minute that was over, it was a party from then on,” he says.

After toasting the bride and groom with flutes of champagne, guests were treated to a garden bar serving specialty cocktails concocted by the groom himself. “I made them that morning and brought them to the venue in five-gallon Home Depot buckets,” he says. In the glass-walled

ballroom, guests were met with sprawling oak branches and warm fall foliage. Tables set with vintage brass, crystal and cobalt blue vases—plus music played by an old-time string band—ensured the atmosphere was classy and understated.

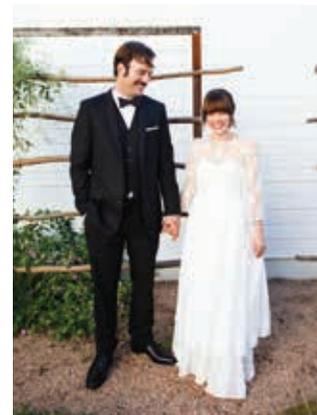
Things stayed free-form with an organic buffet dinner and unassigned seating. At one point, the marriage officiant even had to hunt down the bride and groom to finalize the marriage license. “We

hadn’t planned who to put on as witness, so one of my random friends jumped in,” laughs Elliott. “It was very much in keeping with the whole quasi-organized, laissez faire attitude.”

With the party set up and rolling along, the couple was even able to steal away to share an impossibly rare moment. “There was this amazing point when we were sitting down at this big table all by ourselves,” recalls Elliott. “It was the first moment we had together to enjoy our wedding and let it all sink in.” ●

Barr Mansion and its indoor ballroom with glass wall provided a beautiful setting for the couple’s relaxed wedding and reception.

ALISON HIBBS & JUSTIN ELLIOTT
Sept. 21, 2013



JAKE HOLT PHOTOGRAPHY(7)

DETAILS

VENUE, CATERING, CAKE
BARR MANSION

PHOTOGRAPHER
JAKE HOLT PHOTOGRAPHY

FLORIST
STEMS FLORAL DESIGN

BAND
EAST SIDE ARCADIAN

DJ
THE SHAKE

STRING QUARTET
BARTON STRINGS

BRIDAL GOWN
BHLDN

BRIDESMAIDS GOWNS
FRENCH CONNECTION

FORMALWEAR
J. CREW





Something Old, Something DIY

BY CARLA AVOLIO

The wedding of Lindsey Carlton and Evan LeRoy was never going to be a cookie-cutter affair. “We’re pretty untraditional,” says Carlton. The artistically inclined couple wanted a wedding that reflected their unique style. So they opted to go DIY.

In the lead-up to the modern-rustic themed event, the couple tapped into their network of creative friends and family who helped with many of the most important elements. The whimsical floral displays came courtesy of a college friend of the bride’s while the vanilla-and-caramel cake was made by a bridesmaid who owns a bakery in Florida. Decor-wise, the groom’s mother and uncle ▶

LINDSEY CARLTON &
EVAN LEROY
April 5, 2014



DETAILS

VENUE, CATERING
THE WINFIELD INN

PHOTOGRAPHER
BETHANY LYNN
PHOTOGRAPHY

DJ
ATX DJ

FLORIST
BLOOM & BUD

BRIDAL GOWN
BLUSH BRIDAL LOUNGE

BRIDESMAIDS GOWNS
J. CREW

FORMALWEAR
MEN’S WEARHOUSE

HAIR, MAKE UP
BLAST BLOWDRY

DESSERTS
SUGAR MAMA’S BAKESHOP

Friends and family helped provide decor and displays for Carlton and LeRoy’s ceremony and reception at The Winfield Inn.





handcrafted a raft of charming pieces, including chalkboard signs and speech bubbles, a wooden bench for guests to sign and effortless vases fashioned from Topo Chico mineral water bottles tied with burlap ribbon. “Having our loved ones contribute made the day deeply personal,” Carlton says.

On the wedding day, nuptials were held among the glorious oak trees of the historic Winfield Inn at Kyle, and the couple ensured that twists came fresh and fast. After the ceremony, 160 guests gathered at the breezy reception pavilion where the bridal party was announced in spectacular style. “We had the classic Chicago Bulls intro music playing in the background, and my uncle introduced each of the bridesmaids and groomsmen like sports figures, listing their height and a fun fact about them,” Carlton says. “It was so funny, and the crowd loved it.”

After a contemporary Southern dinner featuring prickly pear short ribs and white truffle mac ‘n’ cheese, guests cheered on as the couple took the floor for a rather unconventional bridal waltz. “We danced to a live version of Bruce Springsteen’s *Thunder Road*,” she says. “We always thought it would be hilarious for this to be our first dance song. It’s just so unexpected.” ●



From the cake (made by a friend of the bride) to the flower wreath (made by the bride) around the neck of the couple’s flower pup, Star, the wedding was a DIY-themed affair.

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BETHANY LYNN PHOTOGRAPHY (2)