

DIRECTORY

Fitting gowns to personalities

Brides collaborate with designers for custom dresses



Metallic gold and nude chiffon stripes over a taffeta mermaid gown

Every bride wants a touch of herself to be reflected in her gown, and a custom-made choice allows various aspects of one's personality to be woven into the design.

Wedding gown designer Vivian Luk says craftsmanship and compatibility between the client and designer will make for a seamless journey to the perfect dress.

"I get to know the client's personality to strengthen the personality behind the gown, and in return she feels more comfortable and enjoys the process while understanding my design philosophies," she says.

"Most brides know there may be more than one side to them, and I like finding the balance between opposing ideals. Knowing where a designer stands can help you find someone who

is able to create a similar balance when expressing the personality of a gown."

One of the more unique gowns Luk created was for a client who wanted three dresses, with each one reflecting a different side of the bride's personality. The wedding venue was big, so the gown needed to stand out without looking heavy on the bride.

"The bridal gown combined a traditional silhouette from afar, with modern elements, such as petal-like ruffles that opened up and created new shapes as she moved. I chose semi-transparent organza for the petals with a satin base to give her body a clean, structured shape," Luk says.

Nearly vertical petals at the front curved to the sides and back, leading to wider petals at the back to create a

full, long train. "The organza ruffles were cut in a way that flared mildly along the top body and cascaded towards the bottom of the skirt to suggest a tighter fit along the torso, and more movement and volume as the ruffles spiralled down her body," Luk says.

Craftsmanship is an important part of dressmaking, especially when it comes to a wedding gown. Luk says a skilled designer can use design tools to create the ideal shape by accentuating or hiding certain areas of the body.

"I have heard many stories where brides end up unhappy with what [they] receive, which could be for many reasons such as the size not fitting correctly, or the attention to detail not as promised. This is why it is important to explore how a designer executes craftsmanship," Luk says.



Metallic gold chantilly lace tulle ball gown with organza pleated trim