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MODERN DAY BALLROOMS CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO SHOWPIECES FOR YOUR WEDDING

Use your dreams and wishes to transform a modern day ballroom into a showplace for your wedding. The recipe for the transformation pictured included color, design, theme and over 150-feet of pipe and drape of green crinkle galaxy drape and swag of the entire perimeter topped with swags of antique gold organza accented with gold cording and tassels. Every third or fourth swag then featured a floor drop of fabric adorned with tassels and cording and bow treatment.

At the entryway, guests enjoyed rich décor that included a 24-foot long archway dressed with grape vines, foliage and bougainvillea vines. Tall columns with crystal sconces were positioned along the perimeter.

Tuscany style dining featured rustic double pedestal tables measuring 4' x 8-feet. Tall risers of a suite of two different designs alternated as the main centerpiece for each table. Collections of mosaic candelabra were positioned along the lengths of the tables. Votive candles, mosaic vases with flowers and glass encased candles blended as Renaissance styled table presentations. A profusion of flowers in shades of orange, amber, gold, cinnabar and an array of reds rose from their casings. Stems of foliage along with rose petals drizzled along the table between the various elements blending the entire presentation beautifully.

Overhead, six chandeliers were suspended in a rectangular fashion. The visual ceiling height was actually dropped by 16-feet. Gold organza swags emanated from the central chandeliers with twinkle lights flowing outward to the smaller chandeliers and gracefully to the pipe and drape line.

A series of Master's Paintings dressed the perimeter of the space. Around the room were tall torchiers dressed with greens and lush floral accents to coordinate with the centerpieces.

TIPS FOR COST-SAVINGS: FOOD, BEVERAGE AND DECOR

When doing anything with food counts, one tip is to guarantee the venue, restaurant and/or caterer approximately five-to-ten percent less than expected. This gives a little cushion. The majority of the time, not everyone shows up for the function.

SOCIALLY SPEAKING

A wedding party can reuse the florals from the ceremony and move them to the dinner portion of the evening while guests are enjoying the cocktail hour at a different location in the venue. During the cocktail hour, the event planners simply move florals such as aisle, Chuppa, and perimeter to the dinner tables, sweet table, woman's restroom or wherever required.

COST SAVING TIPS CAN MAKE ANY BUDGET LOOK GREAT

Whether the budget is large or small from a decor standpoint it always pays to take the time to find the company with the most creativity. You'll notice immediately the companies who simply want to sell you props, opposed to those who want to get involved and are more willing to work within your financial parameters. Creative companies offer the very best recommendations based on what you have to spend.

Limit the size of your room to the needs of your group. Many groups utilize ballrooms much too large for their small quantity of people, and wind up paying huge sums to cut the room with fabric or drop the ceiling.

Use what your room gives you. Certain venues provide their own unique architectures and designs. Instead of focusing on developing the theme with extensive props, utilize a lighting design to punch out what you already have.

One cost-saving tip is to "piggy back" on another event's menu. When you need to lower the cost of food and beverage, you can ask if you could "piggy back" on another event's menu that day so the kitchen only orders more of the same food (less waste) and the preparation because easier as well.

DECORATING TIPS

If you want to make sheer curtains look old and vintage or lose that "new" look, soak them in a combination of tea bags and instant coffee mix. Two-four bags of tea to one-half to one cup of instant coffee added to a gallon of water of warm water. This can be adjusted depending on the desired color goal. Don't use hot water or the material may shrink if using cotton.

For decor table setting cost savings use of pillar candles as centerpieces with placed bloomed rose heads and bits of greens to accent. Use glass blocks or similar elements as pedestals to make for more interesting presentations. Add a few votive candles and viola...a great centerpiece.

Courtesy ME Productions in Orlando, Florida, a full-service destination event production company specializing in award-winning events, theater, staging, audio-visual, music and entertainment. For further information call (954) 458-4000 or visit <http://www.meproductions.com>