

Town & Country WEDDINGS

OUR SPECIAL ISSUE

PLANNING YOUR PERFECT DAY



Illuminating Advice

Nothing sets the mood for your celebration like proper lighting. Here master designer BENTLEY MEEKER shares his expertise.

USE CANDLES WITH RESTRAINT At an indoor wedding, candles tend to be more dramatic when there are fewer of them. Too many emit uncontrolled light; there's no subtlety. Also, remember to check local fire codes, since some places don't allow candles.

MAKE SURE ALL YOUR LIGHTS CAN BE DIMMED For cocktails or dinner, you may want the setting to be brighter, but later you may prefer something softer and more alluring.

EMPLOY WARM COLORS I like pink, amber, gold, honey and apricot because they're flattering to skin tones. Blue is a pretty color to look at, but it's a horrible color to be seen in. Purple and green make you look pasty, so while you might use them to light the wall behind the band, light the band itself in amber and pink.

VISUALIZE THE ENTIRE SPACE Articulate what you want the room to look and feel like, be it romantic, beachy or tropical. For a client who had promised his daughter a wedding under the stars, I lit the Terrace Room at New York's Plaza Hotel in the colors of a beautiful sunset. As the gentleman and his daughter approached the stage, where he was to give her away, he signaled me, and my team changed the entire ceiling to a magnificent midnight sky complete with shimmering stars.

CHOOSE A LIGHTING DESIGNER WHO UNDERSTANDS YOUR VISION Ask prospective lighting designers this three-part question: "How are you going to make the room look good, make us feel good and make us look good?" Lighting is very technical, and some people will try to wow you with a lot of jargon, but you need someone who will get your aesthetic. You are, after all, completely trusting that person with your environment. 212-722-3349; www.bentleymeeker.com.

DENISE SIMON