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25 REAL
SOUTHERN
WEDDINGS



idea
WE LOVE!

Ali & Paul

JULY 23, 2011 • THE WILLIAM AIKEN HOUSE
• CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

A chance encounter on Facebook reunited high school classmates Ali and Paul. "One night I couldn't sleep, and I left a comment on his status," recalls Ali. "Immediately he opened a chat window—I had never even done that before—and we ended up having a pretty deep conversation." By the end of the night, Paul had asked for Ali's phone number. And though he was in Texas and she lived in Indiana, the pair began talking often and became close. With encouragement from friends, Ali decided to meet Paul for a weekend getaway in Chicago—and just see what happened. Six months later, she moved back home to Texas, where Paul proposed, and the couple began planning an intimate, colorful brunch to celebrate their union.

1. The bride wore a blusher in lieu of a veil. **2.** IDEA WE LOVE: Caitlin and Calder of Calder Clark Designs selected a cheerful floral fabric and used it throughout the event as tablecloths, the rings pillow, and the ties the servers wore. It was even depicted on the stationery. **3.** The groom wore a lapel pin created for the ceremony. **4.** A board covered in the signature fabric held place cards. **5.** Three cakes offered guests Key lime, orange zest, and ginger-lemon flavors. **6.** The wedding fabric bound the bride's bouquet. **7.** Lemonade was served in Mason jars with straw holes punched in the lids. **8.** Lemon trees lined the tables. **9.** Lemon garland draped the couple's chairs.



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REAL ADVICE FROM THE BRIDE

• ONE DETAIL THAT MADE THE WEDDING 'YOURS':

Instead of traditional flowers, the ceremony and reception were decorated with lemon trees. When Ali saw the tables, she was moved to tears. "I pictured my whole family there celebrating our marriage, and it felt so whimsical—like it was out of *Alice in Wonderland*, rather than real life."

• GROOM'S REQUEST:

"I wanted to make sure that everyone had a refreshing drink

and a good taste of things Ali and I enjoy," says Paul. The menu featured fresh, local, light ingredients, as well as a salad inspired by their favorite Fort Worth restaurant, GRACE.

• HELPING HANDS:

While the pair relied heavily on Calder Clark Designs, their parents were also helpful. "My parents and Ali's mom gave us great insights on what things were actually important and what things we shouldn't bother stressing about," says Paul.

• FAVORITE SOUTHERN TOUCH:

Ali and Paul wanted the affair to feel more like a garden party than a grand event, so having the wedding in one of their favorite beach towns was a natural fit. Charleston's William Aiken house was a traditional Southern backdrop for a fresh and cozy party for 50 guests.

• BEST ADVICE YOU WERE GIVEN:

"Paul reminded me that I needed to be present in the

moment and enjoy it," says Ali.

• WORDS OF WISDOM:

Because Ali and Paul were planning from afar, they left many details to their planners, Calder and Caitlin, who, Ali says, understood their vision from the first meeting. "If you choose great planners and have the right attitude, it can be such a blast," she says. "I looked at it as a surprise party for us, so there was no chance of being disappointed."

SOURCES VENUE: The William Aiken House PLANNER: Calder Clark Designs PHOTOGRAPHER: Gayle Brooker Photography STATIONERY: Cheree Berry Paper FLOWERS: Blossoms Events CAKE: Wedding Cakes by Jim Smeal CATERER: Patrick Properties Hospitality Group WEDDING GOWN: Maggie Sottero GROOM'S ATTIRE: Malou's BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES: through Dream in Seattle GROOMSMEN'S ATTIRE: J.Crew



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