

# AS TIME GOES BY

*An extended engagement proves ideal* for a Charlotte couple planning the perfect springtime-in-Savannah celebration. By Andrea Goto | Photography by Jade and Matthew McCully

ASHLEY AND CHRIS Granum always knew that they'd return to Savannah—the location of their first vacation together—to make their vows. They had fallen in love with the unrivaled beauty of the Hostess City in the springtime. Blooming azaleas, moss-draped live oaks and lush historic squares promised the ideal backdrop for the outdoor fairytale wedding they wanted.

## Making Time

A destination wedding also made sense for the Charlotte couple, whose families would already be traveling from Michigan and Ohio. The only problem was having enough time to plan. They got engaged in November, so a springtime wedding would allow them only a few months to book the right venues and vendors—from several hundred miles away. Rather than rush to the altar, Ashley and Chris gave themselves 18 leisurely months to plan the April affair.

"I will never regret that," the bride enthuses. "I never felt rushed or stressed."



*Ashley and Chris*

**Season:** Spring  
**Palette:** Pink, peach, navy and gold  
**Planning time:** 18 months  
**Guests:** 100  
**Rehearsal dinner:** 10 Downing at Churchill's  
**Ceremony:** Columbia Square  
**Reception:** Charles H. Morris Center

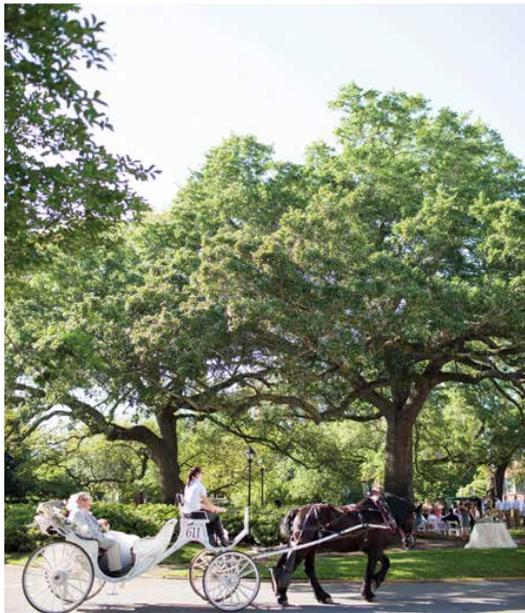


### Sweet Perfection

Ashley initially wanted gold cakes, but when she sent some pictures to Tammy Acosta of Lowcountry Confections for inspiration, the innovative baker outshined her expectations, creating three cakes to reflect the wedding's blush palette, soft florals and gold accents. A delicate ruffle cake even echoed the textures of Ashley's layered linens. "These details made everything look very cohesive," notes designer Tara Skinner of Posh Petals and Pearls.

### A Sense of Touch

The bride, whose favorite "color" is "sparkle," fell in love with a set of textured gold and champagne chevron-print linens. To temper the glam with the ease that reflects the couple's personality, Ashley topped the glitzy linens with dainty baby's breath bouquets, nestled in burlap-wrapped vases.



## Behind the Veil

**The big day:** Saturday, April 26, 2014

**Planner/event designer:** Tara Skinner, Posh Petals and Pearls

**Officiant:** "Tybee" Jack Boylston

**Ceremony music:** C.C. Witt

**Gown:** Enzonai

**Accessories:** Necklace by J. Crew, shoes by Toms

**Hair:** B Street Salon

**Makeup:** Heather Ferguson, Beyond Beautiful by Heather

**Bridesmaids' dresses:** Jasmine Bridal

**Groom/groomsman's attire:** Express, ties from The Belle and The Beau on Etsy

**Catering:** Cynthia Creighton-Jones, Cape Creations

**Reception music:** C.C. Witt and JLK Events

**Florist:** Vicki Sepielli, Kiwi Fleur

**Cake:** Tammy Acosta, Lowcountry Confections

**Rentals:** La Tavola Fine Linen Company, BBJ Linen and Savannah Special Events

**Transportation:** Carriage Tours of Savannah and Old Savannah Tours

**Videographer:** Matt and Eliza Barrera, Barrera Productions

**Photography:** Jade and Matthew McCully, Jade and Matthew Take Pictures, jadeandmatthew.com



### In Full Bloom

Florist Vicki Sepielli of Kiwi Fleur took advantage of the season's floral bounty by incorporating bright, bold blooms with textured neutrals and muted greens such as succulents and eucalyptus. Subtly placed fresh peaches added a touch of sweetness to the floral centerpieces.

### In Memoriam

The bride paid special homage to her late mother by wrapping the bridal bouquet with a ribbon of lace carefully removed from her mother's wedding dress. She also attached a charm to her bouquet that showcased her mother's picture. "I felt like I was holding on to her all the way down the aisle," recalls Ashley.

### Location, Location, Location

"With springtime weddings, people are looking for a pretty outdoor backdrop," Skinner observes. Ashley selected Columbia Square for the ceremony because of her fondness for the fountain—and because it's walking distance to the reception at the Charles H. Morris Center. Skinner creatively arranged the guest seating into three v-shaped rows so that not only the fountain, but also the historic Kehoe House, would frame the ceremony.

### Extra Help

Even though Ashley wanted to handle most of the design details herself, she hired Skinner "for questions, advice, referrals and occasional therapy," she jokes. She then spent more than a year taking trips to Savannah to meet with potential vendors and scouring Pinterest for DIY inspiration. Eventually, the grounded glitterati transformed their home office into a "wedding room," where the crafty bride dreamt up ways to personalize a union that would last through the seasons. S

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