

# alayne & gardiner

ST. LOUIS, MO • April 14  
photography by Suzanne and Dean Thorsen



#### the bridal bouquet

Orchids were the bloom of the day. Alayne held a monobotanic cascade of pink and white orchids.

#### the reception décor

The reception space was decked out with one hundred white paper lanterns and white linen-draped tables with fuchsia, silk dupioni overlays. A pretty orchid graced each reception table.



#### their story

Once Gardiner Allen, a “big” college senior, discovered Alayne Wallin, a “little” freshman, in geology lab, he continued to sit next to her for weeks. At first, Alayne (now 25 and a graphic designer) admits, she wanted nothing to do with Gardiner (now 28 and an application architect), but slowly, a friendship began to develop. Then one day Alayne realized Gardiner had something special to offer—he was a computer science major and Alayne was practically failing her computer science class. One night, Gardiner offered a private tutoring session, and, as Alayne puts it, “things developed from there.” Four years later, just before Alayne took off on a yearlong trip to Japan to teach English, Gardiner surprised her with a romantic proposal on his rooftop overlooking downtown St. Louis. —A.W.



**the details**

Guests were invited to write special wishes for the newlyweds on fun, patterned paper.

**the boutonniere**

Gardiner wore a white orchid boutonniere attached to his lapel.

**the bridesmaid looks**

Alayne's six bridesmaids wore strapless, silk dupioni, tea-length dresses in varying shades of pink. >>



**the ceremony**

Although rain didn't allow them to hold their ceremony in the Japanese Garden, Alayne and Gardiner still opted for an outdoor ceremony. The two exchanged vows in front of their reception site as their guests looked on, surrounding them in a half circle.

**the programs**

The invitations and programs set the stage for the day. Using her graphic design background, Alayne designed the chic hand-sewn invitations and the fan-shaped programs.

**the bridesmaid bouquets**

In lieu of traditional bouquets, each maid carried a Japanese wooden fan. >>



**style notes**

Having lived in Japan for a year, Alayne had fallen in love with the culture and decided that it would be the perfect theme for her wedding. She used a fuchsia and green color scheme and incorporated white orchids and handmade paper cranes into all the wedding day details.



**the cake**

The cake was a delectable, three-tiered, square cake frosted with ivory buttercream. The base of each tier was lined with a fuchsia ribbon, and two, handmade, white chocolate cranes served as cake toppers.

**the first dance**

For their first dance song, Alayne and Gardiner danced to Van Morrison's "Have I Told You Lately" before opening up the dance floor to the rest of their guests.

**the accessories**

Alayne's strappy sandals by Nina coordinated with her champagne veil and gown, adding a little glitz to her look. >>





**the gown**

Alayne looked stunning in a strapless champagne-colored gown with simple draping at the waist.

**the food**

During the cocktail hour, guests were greeted with assorted sushi, pot stickers with Asian sauce and grilled shrimp with wasabi sauce.



**their ingredients**

**SITE** Spink Pavilion, Missouri Botanical Gardens  
(314) 776-5522

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Suzanne and Dean Thorsen/  
Thorsen Photography (312) 550-0202, Chicago, IL

**GOWN** Maggie Sottero, House of Fashion  
(916) 554-7440 Sacramento, CA

**SHOES** Nina, Macy's at Chesterfield Mall  
(314) 444-3111

**HAIR AND MAKEUP** Malenda Wallin  
(408) 898-7198, San Francisco, CA

**BRIDESMAID DRESSES** Handmade by a  
bridesmaid's mother

**FORMALWEAR** Men's Wearhouse  
(314) 721-3356

**INVITATIONS** Created by the bride,  
Alayne Allen (314) 583-3711

**FLOWERS** Mary Tuttle's Flowers  
(636) 728-0480, Chesterfield

**MUSIC** John Tambuckle (314) 795-7355

**DANCE LESSONS** Just Dancing  
(636) 227-7202, Manchester

**CATERING** Catering St. Louis (314) 961-7588

**CAKE** Lafitte's Desserts  
(636) 677-1009, High Ridge

**FAVORS** Chopsticks and green tea from Japan

**ACCOMMODATIONS** The Ritz-Carlton  
(314) 863-6300

**HONEYMOON** St. Barts