

Brides

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF | BRIDES | ModernBride

Chicago

177

RECEPTION SITES

The **48**
Best
Gowns
of the Season

312 STYLE IDEAS

- ▶ Survey Results WHAT AREA VENDORS COST
- ▶ LOVELY BOUQUETS {Same Look, Half Price}
- ▶ A WELL-SUITED GROOM The Right Jacket for Any Body Type
- ▶ Real Brides Test-Drive HAIRSTYLES + ACCESSORIES



FALL/WINTER 2007 • \$4.99

Brides.com | **YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR WEDDING IDEAS**

Thinking Inside the Box

Sure, they're pricey, but if your invite list is small and your event is luxe, box invitations are a dramatic option. New custom-invitation company **Alia Designs** (650-387-3330, aliadesigns.com), a sister duo based in Chicago and San Mateo, California, works one-on-one with clients to design exquisite fantasy creations that arrive in silk boxes embellished with materials sourced from around the world, including freshwater pearls, fabrics, jacquard ribbons, and beading.

"The boxes eventually become great keepsakes for guests, as well, because after the wedding they can use them to store photos or jewelry," says co-owner Puneet Messler. Cost: \$35 and up per invitation ensemble.



Thinking Inside the Box

Local Company We Adore

The Chicago-based design company **Snow & Graham** (snowandgraham.com) is best known for its stylish and feminine stationery products, available at Paper Doll (773-227-6950, paperdollchicago.com).

It's likely that before you were in "wedding mode," you fell in love with the company's prepackaged note cards. And while it doesn't offer custom invitation design (and boy, do we wish it would), Snow & Graham recently added a few new fabulous designs to its collection.

These letterpress coasters, fashioned after the pop art of the '60s, are invites to bachelorette parties and bridal showers—and make great keepsakes to include in a bridal scrapbook. We're not suggesting you foist these on your bridesmaids, but if anyone asks.... Cost: \$12.50 for a set of 6.



FIND YOUR FLORIST AND STATIONER AT BRIDES.COM/CHICAGO