

"DRAMATIC DESIGN"

NISHA and FRANCESCO

PHOTOGRAPHED BY FIVE15FIFTEEN PHOTO CO.

UNEXPECTED ROMANCE

A job interview rarely sets a foundation for romance but that's exactly what happened when Francesco (Frank) interviewed, and then hired, Nisha for a co-op student placement at the Ottawa company he was overseeing at the time. "We are both graduates of the University of Waterloo," explains Nisha. "We were both working long hours for this home building company that was in the process of launching a start-up operation in Ottawa."

Eventually, Frank would launch his own development company from scratch, which was when the pair took their working relationship to a new level. "When we did, the strong bond we had already established evolved into a life-long union," Nisha says.

BEAUTIFUL PROPOSAL

The proposal was building for a number of months before it finally happened. The day before leaving to celebrate Christmas with their families in Toronto, Frank handed Nisha a small, wrapped box in their kitchen. "When I opened it, I immediately slammed it closed and started crying—I couldn't believe what I had found! It was the most beautiful engagement ring I had ever seen, so much more than I could have imagined. The prospect of marrying Frank was a dream finally come true."



Invitations created by PAPER & POSTE set the tone for the dramatic event that would unfold. The stationery featured hand-calligraphed designs wrapped with leather ribbon and sealed with a gold skeleton key. Planner Melissa Andre had sourced hundreds of unique gold skeleton keys from all over the USA for this purpose, along with other areas of the decor.

Frank wore a Tom Ford suit paired with a Stefano Ricci shirt and tie.



FASHION NOTES

Nisha wore a Monique Lhuillier gown from WHITE TORONTO. Her two sisters (also her bridesmaids) wore floor-length, black Monique Lhuillier gowns. Nisha gifted each of them with a bracelet from TIFFANY & CO. (Pearls for one sister, and black onyx for the other.)

DRAMATIC DREAMS

Nisha and Frank wanted a wedding that was 'dark, deconstructed and dramatic, yet elegant and a bit theatrical.' With that in mind, the pair chose THE FERMENTING CELLAR in the Distillery District as the location where their August 4, 2012 wedding took place.

They commissioned Melissa Andre of MELISSA ANDRE EVENTS to assist them with full-service design and planning for their dream day. "Melissa Andre and her team were a pleasure to work with. Melissa knew exactly how to execute our vision and pulled everything together flawlessly. She described it as 'Beauty and the Beast' meets Alexander McQueen—and she was spot on," says Nisha. "She pulled every little detail together and really brought our vision to life. She designed elements that we hadn't even anticipated. We suspected having a wedding planner was important, but discovered it was essential!"

"THE LIGHTING was dramatic and changed into a beautiful amber glow as I walked down the aisle. It was completely romantic."
 -NISHA



MUSICAL GREETING

As guests arrived at **THE FERMENTING CELLAR**, they were greeted by a pianist playing a black, baby grand piano. The piano sat atop hundreds of pink and red rose petals. Deep red tapered candles sat in oversized glass cylinders to further enhance the drama. The space had been completely transformed from a raw, urban setting to a richly decorated dreamscape under the design direction of Melissa Andre, working closely with **STERLING KJARGAARD**.



LE REVE

The ceremony area featured a custom aisle runner by **STERLING KJARGAARD**. The runner featured a French love poem printed in a calligraphic font with shimmering gold ink. The chandeliers and lighting were coordinated with the expertise of **5TH ELEMENT EVENTS** who created a soft glow above the aisle as guests seated themselves, grew slightly brighter for the bridal party. The lights grew brighter still, as Nisha walked toward Frank.

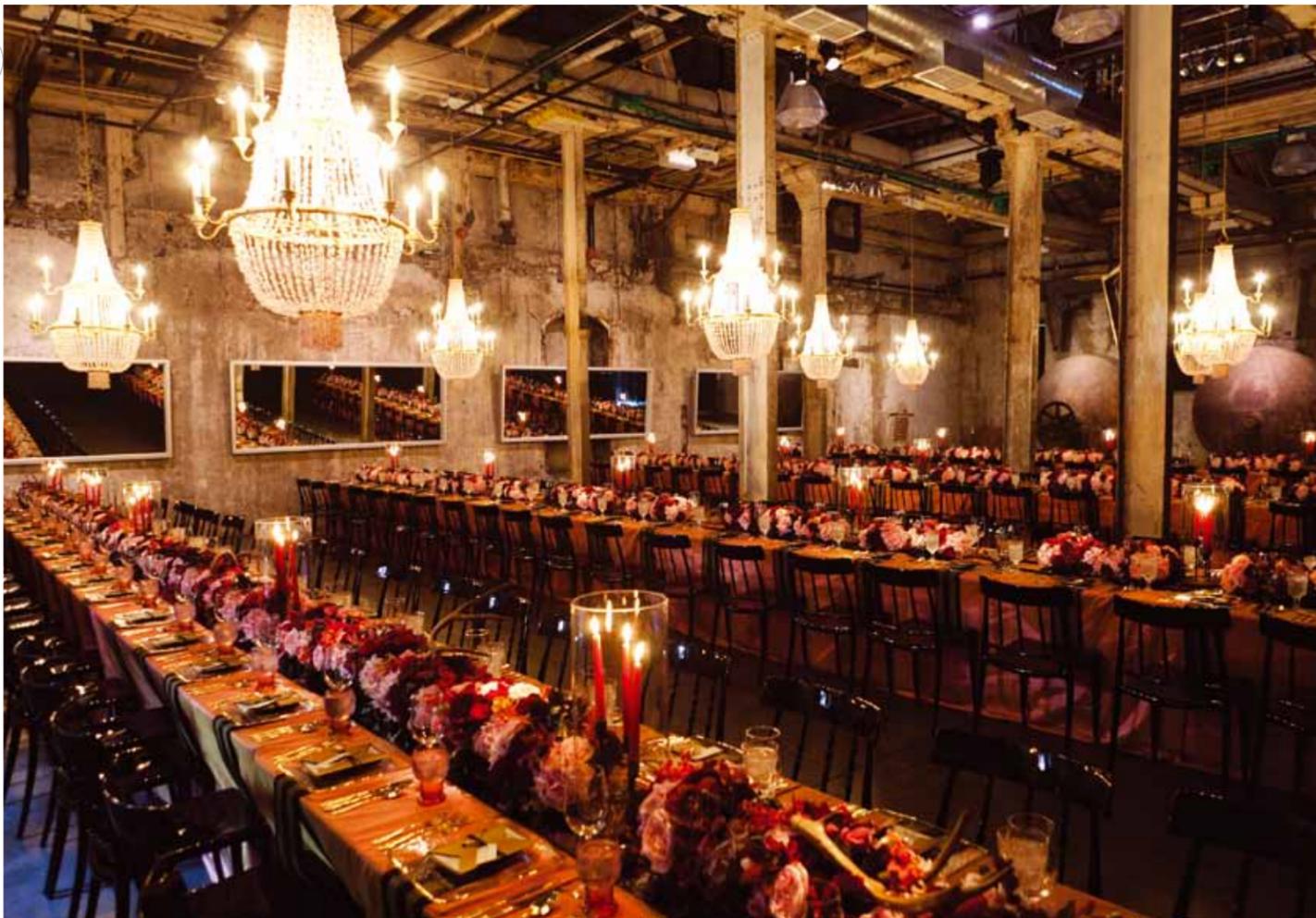
Vintage wooden bookcases (also sourced by Melissa) were lined with hundreds of Mercury Glass votive candles, creating a glowing backdrop to the ceremony.



COCKTAIL HOUR
 A sexy lounge area created for the cocktail hour featured furniture from **CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE RENTALS**. Guests could enjoy custom Hendricks Gin cocktails—which were a huge hit. The premium cocktails were garnished with cotton candy and fresh cucumber.



Aaron Kaufman and his team from **5TH ELEMENT EVENTS** provided all of the lighting, draping, staging and red carpet for the event.



The keys were in addition to two other unique keepsakes for guests. "We worked with Melissa to come up with ideas and ended up with two favors; one for the men the other for the ladies," says Nisha. "FRANK CORRENTI CIGARS created fresh cigars for the gentlemen to take with them, but we also had some that were dry, and ready to smoke at the reception."

For the ladies, a perfumer was on hand to create custom fragrances. "Our perfume station was something none of our guests had ever seen before. The lovely ladies from AROMATHERAPY had a variety of perfume bases and oils, and combined them to create a perfume customized to each lady's individual taste."

SWEET FINALE

For a sweet finale, Alexandria of CAKE OPERA CO. worked with Melissa Andre to design a lavish (and dramatic) sweet table, with a five-tier red velvet cake as the centerpiece. The cake was surrounded with cupcakes adorned with sugar crystal flowers, golden key cookies, and hand-blown sugar lollipops. "Alexandria sketched such gorgeous elements and Melissa sourced all the holders and pedestals and sweet table rentals," says Nisha. "When it was revealed, people thought it was so gorgeous they didn't want to touch it for at least 20 minutes! But once one person went in, it was gone in minutes."

"A DJ from SOLE POWER PRODUCTIONS got the party started after dinner and was joined by a bongo player later in the evening. The bongo player was excellent and really had people dancing," says Nisha.

The entire day was captured by NAZ FILMS.

Nisha and Frank enjoyed a mini-moon in Muskoka, but will be taking an extended holiday in late 2012 when they plan to sail the islands of French Polynesia and spend some time in an over-water bungalow in Bora Bora.

The couple now live in Ottawa where they work together full-time.



DRAMATIC RECEPTION
Deep-red tapered waxy candles, placed in oversized glass cylinders, were nestled into 20-foot long floral centerpieces.

Beautifully designed menus by PAPER & POSTE were individually personalized with each guest's name, and hand-tied with leather ribbon and gold keys. "Guests were wearing them as necklaces and then took them home as a keepsake," remembers Nisha.



HIGH DRAMA
Flowers in shades of pink, coral and red were combined with clusters of gold-painted berries, along with antlers and black diamond skulls, for a dramatic edge.



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The internationally published team of Sive15ifteen bring a collective flare to this boutique-style studio that blends art with heart. When asked what distinguishes their team of photographers from others, founders Anthony and Mike reply, "our photographers have a true talent for seeing things differently. They have the ability to capture every emotion splendidly."
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