

INSIDE >> 23 RECEPTION SITES • 45 PHOTOGRAPHERS • BANDS • FLORISTS • VIDEOGRAPHERS • CATERERS >>

SPRING/SUMMER 2007

# the knot

MISSOURI & KANSAS

[theknot.com/mo-ks](http://theknot.com/mo-ks)

## 10 gorgeous real weddings

top dress trends

101 reception style ideas

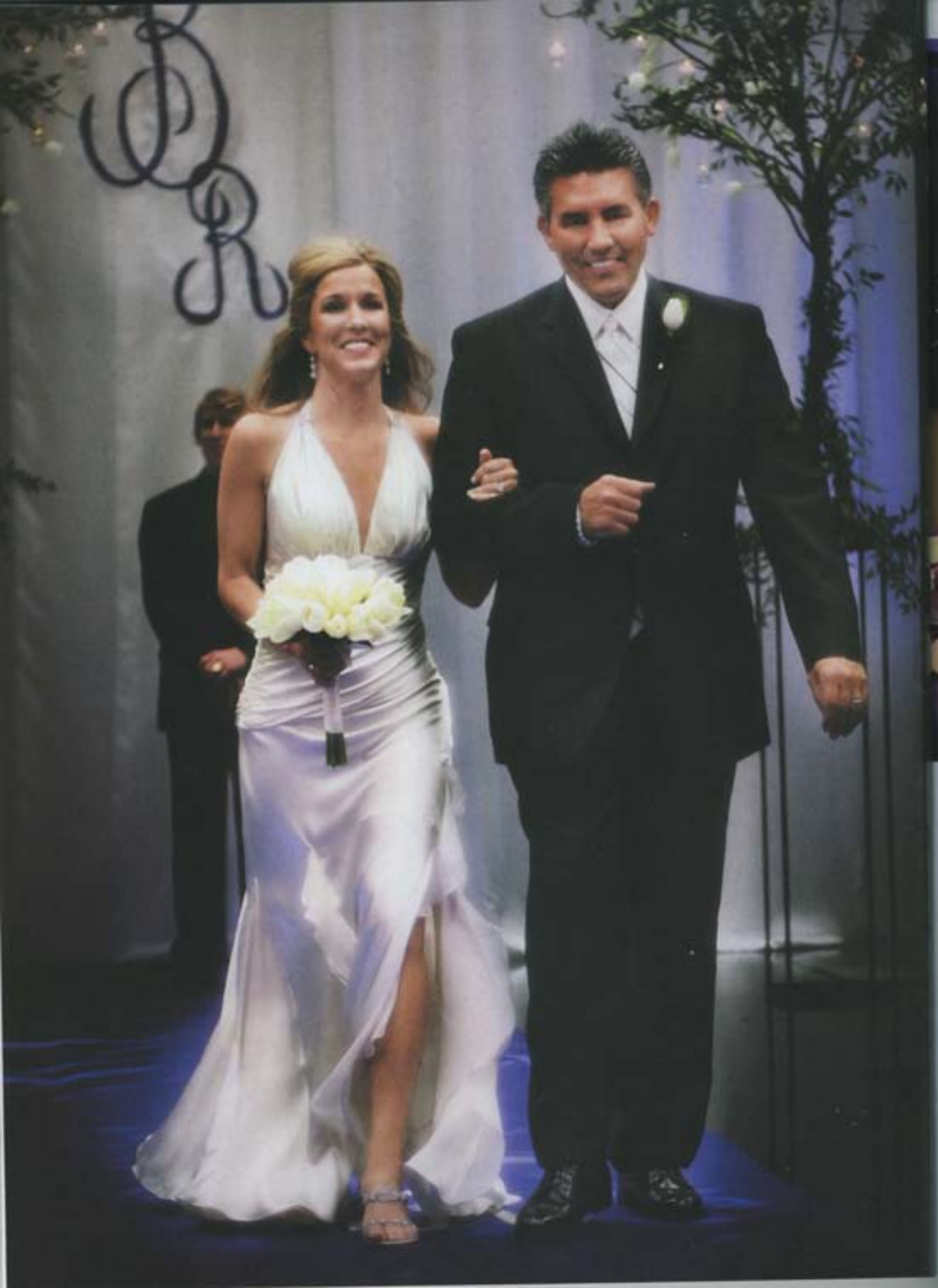
The ultimate  
wedding guide to:

Kansas City Metro  
St. Louis Metro  
Springfield  
Topeka  
Columbia  
Overland Park  
and Wichita

GO ECO  
53  
PLANNING  
TIPS

\$4.99 Display Until June 4, 2007









## cathy & rick

APRIL 28, KANSAS CITY, MO

photography by Marco and Jan Simonelli

A business trip to New York City became more about pleasure when Cathy Howard (a 38-year-old commercial real estate broker) and Rick Baier (a 52-year-old commercial real estate developer) decided to hit the Diamond District in search of an engagement ring. The two had dated for two years and had even purchased a home together, but Rick had yet to formally propose. That all changed, though, on their last night in New York. The two were dining at Nobu with friends when an unexpected treat arrived at the end of the meal: chocolate mousse with a proposal written around the edge of the plate. "I said yes, and the whole restaurant applauded," says Cathy. "Afterward, we stole the plate with the proposal still written on it!"

Both Cathy and Rick have busy professional lives and children from previous marriages, so they hired wedding planner Mandy Phalen from Event Studio to attend to the details of their >>





## CATHY &amp; RICK: CONT.

New York nightclub-inspired celebration. "We wanted the feel to be classy," says Cathy. "This was the second and final marriage for both of us, and we wanted to throw a huge party to celebrate."

The two married in front of 50 close friends and family members at Kansas City's Liberty Memorial, a newly renovated World War I monument and museum. Cathy, with a son on each arm, walked down a dramatic purple aisle runner that was embroidered with the couple's initials. She wore a sophisticated champagne-colored, halter-style gown, and Rick (who walked down the aisle with his two daughters) wore a black Calvin Klein suit with a champagne-colored shirt and striped tie. By their sides were Cathy's sister as matron of honor in a brown halter dress, and Rick's son as best man in a natty shirt and tie combo.

After a private dinner with their ceremony guests, the couple kicked off their sophisticated reception with a shimmering martini bar and >>





**Planning tip:** Nontraditional menus add more energy to the reception. Cathy and Rick focused on heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails to keep guests dancing and mingling throughout the night.



#### CATHY & RICK *cont.*

ice luge that served up cosmos, lemon drops, and dirty martinis. An additional 350 guests joined them for the celebration where soft draperies, purple linens, sculpted metal trees, and warm candlelight added to the club vibe. The Jeff Jenkins Band entertained and kept the party grooving with tunes from artists such as The Dave Matthews Band and John Mayer. "They were incredible," says Cathy. "All of our guests commented on the band; I think they may have booked a few more gigs just from our party!" Heavy hors d'oeuvres kept everyone's energy levels up, as did the decadent dessert buffet.

The night ended much too soon for the newlyweds, who decided to extend the revelry just a bit longer. "About 75 of our friends were headed to a club down the street, so we surprised them by showing up," says Cathy. "They all cheered when we arrived, and it made for a long night!" But no worries ... the happy couple caught up on some much-needed rest during their 10-day honeymoon in Maui. —S.B. >>





## CATHY &amp; RICK'S INGREDIENTS

**SITE** The Liberty Memorial Museum (816) 784-1918 **PHOTOGRAPHY** Marco and Jan Simonelli PhotoMementos.com **CONSULTANT** "Mandy did all of the hard work, and I was able to focus on the fun details," says Cathy. "She kept us organized, and thanks to her the event was flawless." Mandy Phalen, Event Studio (913) 469-1850, Leawood, KS **OFFICIANT** Pastor Timmy Gibson, Olathe Life Fellowship (913) 390-1200, Olathe, KS **GOWN** Cathy's sexy halter-style gown featured ruching around the bodice, a low back, and two slits up the front legs. Bridal Extraordinaire (913) 268-5566, Shawnee, KS **HAIR AND MAKEUP** A friend of Cathy's did her hair and makeup. **MAID OF HONOR DRESS** Bridal Extraordinaire **FORMALWEAR** Rick wore a black Calvin Klein suit with a champagne shirt and tie. Men's Wearhouse (816) 587-1205, North Kansas City **INVITATIONS** The party invitations were fittingly named "Party Feet" and featured people mingling with cocktails from the waist down. Event Studio **FLOWERS** Dan Meiners helped bring Cathy's vision of a New York-nightclub to life. Studio Dan Meiners (816) 842-7244 **RENTAL EQUIPMENT** Specialty décor from Midwest Embroidery (816) 421-0209; lighting from Harvest Productions (816) 483-3889 **CATERING** Artichoke and pine nut terrine with baked lavosh was a favorite at the reception. Bonterra Catering & Events (816) 842-7484 **MUSIC** Ceremony: harpist and flutist booked through Frontline Entertainment (913) 338-4200; reception: Jeff Jenkins Band (913) 940-0236 **TRANSPORTATION** Overland Limousine (913) 381-3504, Overland Park, KS **ACCOMMODATIONS** Sheraton Suites Country Club Plaza (816) 931-4400 **HONEYMOON** "Since our wedding was on a Friday, the next day we had all our family over for brunch," says Cathy. "Then on Sunday we left for 10 days in Maui."