

PALM BEACH

I L L U S T R

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SOMETHING OLD,
SOMETHING NEW
WEDDING GUESTS
ON THE LAWN AT
MADDOCK JUNGLE,
THE FAMILY ESTATE.
INSET: THE MAIN
HOUSE WAS ONCE A
HISTORIC CHURCH.



palm beach story



At a seaside wedding in Florida, William Norwich reports, Gold Coast tradition and New York City chic were a match made in heaven.

After the diamond, a girl's best friend, especially when she is getting married, is her party planner, the brighter the better. Happily for Celerie Kemble, the interior decorator, one of her very best friends is Bronson van Wyck, the handsome special-events planner to some of the country's most social stars. (He did Marina Rust's wedding to Ian Connor in Maine, as seen in *Vogue* in 1999.)

The newlyweds met about six years ago, when a mutual friend recommended Celerie to decorate Boykin Curry's apartment. And when Celerie and Boykin, a Manhattan financier whose current projects include the creation of a new resort called Playa Grande on some 2,000 acres in the Dominican Republic, became engaged last year, the bride never wondered whom to call.

**THESE ARE
THE DAYS
THE BRIDE
WORE LELA
ROSE.**



"Even if we weren't best friends, I would have wanted Bronson," Celerie said. "We both have the same aesthetic. In our businesses there are a lot of people who just spend money professionally, but our focus is interpreting for our clients, drawing out their self-expression, their whimsy." Celerie and Bronson, whose mothers also were school chums, went to Groton together and stayed thick and thin through her years at Harvard and his at Yale.

The setting for the wedding also was never in doubt. Maddock Jungle, the Palm Beach family place of the bride's mother, Mimi McMakin, casts a compelling spell. It dates back to the late nineteenth century, with five houses on the property, including "the Church," which is Mimi's house and was the original Bethesda-by-the-Sea church, deconsecrated in the thirties. You would have to have been born understanding wicker, and I hope you were, to appreciate the great chic and significance of this dazzling, ramshackle palace, set on a hill over the Intercoastal Waterway (or

the menu

- hors d'oeuvres*
- Palm Beach cheese puffs
- Grilled oysters
- first course*
- Chilled steamed artichokes
- main courses*
- Sauteed snapper with champagne chive beurre blanc
- Braised BBQ short ribs
- Penne with fresh peas

"lake," as they say in P.B.). It is, as far as I know, the only place in the restricted resort without a hedge to keep people out.

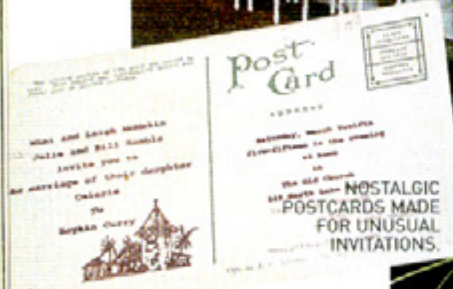
The ceremony was held on the lawn near the lake. "Entertaining outdoors gives the hosts a dialogue between the rustic and refined," said Bronson. "Just as a wedding, as an event, is a dialogue between the sacred and the secular." *entertainer* >136

PERNS AND WHITE CHAIRS EVOKED OLD PALM BEACH.



THE BRIDESMAIDS WORE PASTELS.

BOYKIN AND CELERIE CELEBRATED WITH 300-PLUS SPARKLERS.



EACH BRIDESMAID CARRIED A PERSONALIZED BOUQUET.



"JUNK AND JUNGLE" WAS THE THEME.

The docks, the trees, and bushes were lighted with thousands of tiny Christmas lights. It took two men seven weeks, but you felt embraced by the place; sometimes outdoors guests feel lost in the perimeters. You sipped champagne at tables and chairs lakeside, while the bride's and groom's dozen attendants convened at the neighboring house of Pauline Boardman Pitt—Samantha Boardman was an attendant—and when the time came in the late afternoon, they proceeded along the lake path, led by gospel singers, children, and dogs. Violinists serenaded the bride and her father; the bride wore a dress designed by Lela Rose. The couple were joined in holy matrimony under a vibrant arch.

A buffet dinner—a sampling of the bride's favorite dishes, including short ribs and penne pasta with peas prepared by the P.B. caterers C'est Si Bon—was served inside a tent Bronson had designed like an extra room added to any one of the Mad-dock houses. Old Palm Beach, or "junk and jungle," was the design theme. The ceiling of the tent was covered with spinach-and newsprint-colored fabric. There were huge Celtic lanterns and palm paintings by Mary Bullock, and instead of uniform

tabletop centerpieces there were individual still lifes of various objects and bibelots, from sailboats to pictures in silver frames, culled from the houses on the property. The place cards were sea grapes with your name on one side and table number on the other.

The music built from the violinists to Bob Hardwick's orchestra during dinner to Björn Again, an Abba cover band; then, when some 250 more guests arrived to join the original 350, the Miami deejay DJ Irie played until dawn.

When time came for the ceremonial cake, a castle made of sugar and shells, the dinner guests were handed sparklers and led from the tent back to the lawn. As 300-plus sparklers sparkled, a 35-minute fireworks display put on by Bay Fireworks dazzled over the lake; no one could help commenting that somehow Donald and Melania Trump were denied their request for a fireworks permit for their wedding, but the P.B. powers that be granted permission to the Kemble-Curry nuptials.

The newlyweds were en route to a honeymoon in Bhutan by the time the local newspaper reported that poodles and assorted other precious Palm Beach pets had been frightened by the blasts. □



inspiration bells are ringing

The wedding theme should be carried out in the smallest flourishes. **1** Say "I do" to unique table linens. Event designer Bronson van Wyck chose palm- and banana-leaf prints to go with the wedding's Florida setting. Mimi & Brooke Jungle Palm fabric, about \$63 per yard. www.kembleinteriors.com. Braemore Textiles Galapagos fabric. **2** A standard rented reception tent is much more elegant when creatively lighted. Navidad chandelier, about \$1,650. (212) 675-8601. **3** Flower girls should be carefree and comfortable. Lucy Sykes Baby Dotted-swiss ruffled frock, about \$80. www.lucysykes-baby.com. **4** Let them eat Key-lime pie. Juliska five-piece bamboo place setting, about \$125. (888) 414-8448. **5** Found objects—from family photographs to heirloom vases—make the centerpiece the center of attention. Van Wyck & Van Wyck mint-julep cup, about \$125. (212) 675-8601.