

! Colorado Invites, Flowers & Favors

Defining “Rustic” What Your Florist Is Thinking



When you give your florist style direction, make sure you ask how she interprets your words. “To me, ‘rustic’ arrangements mimic the textures you’d find in nature or in a garden, but in an elegant, contemporary way,” says **Alicia Schwede**, owner of Bella Fiori, a floral design studio in Lakewood. Here, Alicia shows how she would pull off a rustic look.

FLOWERS “In full bloom, peonies and garden roses convey a loose, airy feeling,” says Alicia. “I’d use them, plus berries, fruits, and herbs—rosemary, lavender, and mint are my favorites.” Lysimachia, dahlias, montbretia, hydrangea, and freesia also would be part of the mix, along with “jasmine, honeysuckle, and Texas smilax vines, which have a wild, textural quality,” she says.

GREENERY “Using a variety of greenery in an arrangement mimics the natural look of a garden and keeps the design from looking contrived,” says Alicia. She would include lamb’s ear, ferns, scented geranium leaves, moss, and seeded eucalyptus. “Recently, I’ve also been including curly willow and red dogwood branches,” she says.

CONTAINERS “Garden urns are my favorite because their shape and depth allow the flowers and greenery to drape nicely,” says Alicia. “I also like containers made of weathered bronze, which go well with the natural colors you often see in rustic arrangements.” She’d also consider wooden boxes, galvanized metal buckets, and glass vases wrapped in birch bark.

INVITES, FLOWERS & FAVORS

Get to Know Lucky Onion

When these favor boxes designed by Westminster-based graphic design studio **Lucky Onion** came across our desks, we were thrilled to finally see something neither white nor shiny. Better still, something beautiful *and* affordable.

Owners Cristy Fernández and Kevin Eslinger recently debuted the favor packaging collection in conjunction with a new line of wedding stationery (also worth a look). The boxes come in seven different shapes that can be mixed and matched with a limitless selection of seals, trims, and paper bands. Plus, if you don’t see what fits your style, the studio will custom-design it for you. Cost: Favor boxes start at around \$1 each. 303-877-9585, luckyonion.com

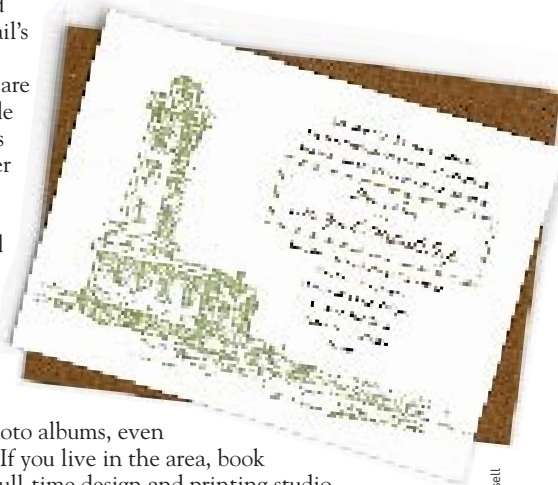


Hand-Hewn

A lot of companies talk a good game about “handcrafted” products or “eco-friendly” manufacturing, but that’s never enough to grab our attention. It has to be stunning, too. And the products from Gail Watson’s Golden-based **Birdwood Press** are a wonderful confluence

of beautiful design and diligent execution. Gail’s clean, nature-inspired letterpress invitations are created with handmade cotton papers. She has perfected her craft over the last 20 years, and uses an 1887 treadle press powered by hand and foot.

But Birdwood Press doesn’t just do invitations. Gail also creates attractive wine bottle and favor labels, guest books, photo albums, even ceramic napkin rings. If you live in the area, book a consultation at her full-time design and printing studio, which formally launched a year and a half ago. 303-582-5855, birdwoodpress.com



FIND YOUR FLORIST AT BRIDES.COM/COLORADO