

# grand gesture

TERESA LI & LEIGH JIANG

10 SEPTEMBER, 2011

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY & SERGEANTS MESS, MOSMAN, NSW

*Teresa, 26, and Leigh, 27, met at university while studying dentistry – six years later it was a race to be engaged. 'Leigh planned an Amazing Race-style proposal with tasks on cards given to me. When I finished the tasks, he was waiting for me on the hotel balcony with "marry me" written in candles,' says the bride.*



## stylist's tip...

Use double chiffon draping, professional lighting, candles, and crisp white linen to transform your reception space.



**FULL BLOOM** Teresa and Leigh wed in Sydney's spectacular St Mary's Cathedral. 'We wanted a grand affair so we selected the cathedral for our ceremony,' the bride explains. 'Our florist, Maria Lush, created four beautiful large arrangements of mixed white blooms for the High Altar, and added roses, Singapore orchids and jasmine to the pews.' For Teresa's bouquet, Maria combined the softness of David Austin roses and ranunculus with the modern style of white phalaenopsis orchids.

**STYLISH SURPRISE** The bride walked down the aisle in a stunning Steven Khalil gown with a ruched bodice and ruffled skirt. 'It was quite a transformation for all my friends as I am a bit of a tomboy,' says Teresa. For the reception, she changed into a Helen English satin sheath gown with lace appliqué and crystal detail. Not to be outdone, Leigh wore a navy suit to the ceremony and a slim-line white suit from Matthew Lawrence Bespoke to the reception.



**FLORAL DESIGN** Florist, Maria Lush also created three different centrepiece designs for the couple's reception. 'The first was a beautiful tree with tulips, cherry blossom, and Singapore orchids; the second consisted of a tall glass vase of flowers on a large round mirror with pillar candles and tea lights; and the third was made up of two gold candle sticks with pillar candles and vases of roses, calla lilies and tulips,' says the bride.

**SENSATIONAL SWEETS** In keeping with their lavish theme, Teresa and Leigh chose a stunning five-tier wedding cake by Faye Cahill Cake Design, with citrus strawberry, vanilla rose petal, orange and poppy seed, coconut white chocolate, and chocolate mud cake flavours. 'As we cut the cake, a fireworks display erupted outside for all our guest to enjoy,' says the bride. Guests were also treated to a personalised candy bar stocked with macarons and all types of lollies in white and navy blue, by The Candy Buffet Company.



## *sources list*

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