

THE RADAR BRIDAL

BY REBECCA HESLIN



Carolina Herrera



Vera Wang



Saeyoung Vu

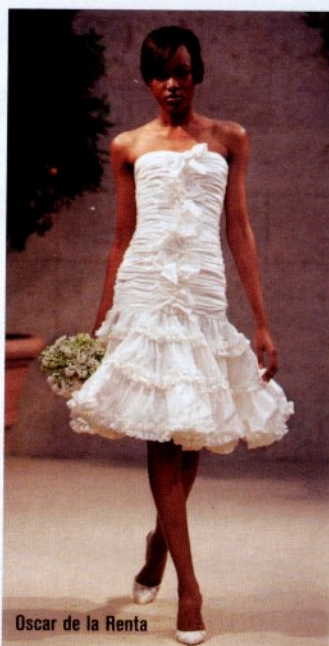


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HAUTE ATTACK

Dress to thrill in high-fashion frocks for your big day

As brides strut down the runway, er, aisle these days, guests may feel like they're lining a catwalk in Bryant Park. Think Nicole Kidman in Balenciaga and Katie Holmes in Armani. Designers like Oscar de la Renta are taking cues from their ready-to-wear lines and ditching traditional wedding couture in favor of shorter cocktail-esque dresses and more overtly sexy styles. "Brides tend to be choosing gowns that fit closer to their bodies," says Julie Kepniss, co-owner of Hitched (1523 Wisconsin Ave., NW, 202.333.6162), DC's exclusive carrier of Oscar's bridal line. This spring's designs, such as those from Carolina Herrera, flaunt architectural minutiae and emphasize structure. Take the neckline for example: Gone are the days of the plain, straight-line strapless numbers. Vera Wang is bringing strappy back, but in a sultrier way. Note Kidman's one-sleeved gown at her I do's. Kepniss adds, "It's about customizing and making the dress reflect your personality." ■



Oscar de la Renta