



Planning tip: Blend your culture in to your day in honor of their Asian backgrounds, Ema and Norbert used a Japanese paper for their invites and gave away fortune cookie favors.



ema & norbert

APRIL 15, DARIEN, CT

photography by Raina McCuskey

For Ema Shimada and Norbert Lou, the phrase "good things come to those who wait" couldn't be more true. Set up a blind date, Ema (now 33 and a localization specialist for an Internet company) sat at the bar waiting patiently for Norb (now 32 and a hedge fund manager) to show. As it turns out, Norbert was waiting for her at the restaurant's other end. Once they connected, the two hit it off, and soon Norbert was planning a special dinner followed by a sunset proposal. But this time, Ema kept him waiting. "I arrived late to dinner (oops), so by the time we finished dessert, the sunset long over," she remembers. Despite the bad timing, Norbert asked Ema to marry him anyway, and the two didn't long to start planning a wedding.

Since they were living in California, Ema and Norbert hired Lyndsey Hamilton to help pull together their celebration in Connecticut (where both the bride and groom grew up). While there was no special theme, the bride's favor color and a few special Asian touches in honor of their backgrounds tied together the wedding's style. Ema walked down the aisle wearing a simple yet elegant A-line gown made from white silk tulle chiffon with a wrapped bodice, sash, and no train. Her bouquet showcased a mix of lavender, purple, and creamy blossoms, including roses and misti calla lilies.

Ema and Norbert exchanged vows in a garden ceremony on a fairly warm April Sunday beneath clear blue skies. Afterward, guests made their way indoors, where the reception space was decorated with vibrant bursts of springtime color. Hundreds of colorful origami cranes—to symbolize a long, contented married life—decorated the escort card display; centerpieces were kept low to the table and packed with springtime blooms in shades of green and purple. The six three-tiered square white wedding cake also received a punch of color from deep purple and pink blossoms. In a final nod to their Asian heritage, Ema and Norbert gave their guests fortune cookie favors. Then it was off to French Polynesia: a two-week honeymoon! —C.K. »



EMA & NORBERT'S INGREDIENTS

SITE The Meadowlands (203) 653-395

PHOTOGRAPHY Raina McCuskey/MemMa

Studios, LLC, MemMa.com, Westport, CO

STUDENT Lyndsey Hamilton/Fines (212)

8074, New York, NY **OFFICIANT** Mary

(203) 838-1038, Norwalk **GOWN** An

Knecht Bride (415) 956-5657, San Francisco

CA **VEIL** Ema's mom made her veil by sewing

tulle to a floral comb. **SHOES** Dymbles HA

The bride's mom did her hair—"After about 5

practitioner sessions," says Ema. **HAIRUP** Th

bride's best friend from high school did

her makeup. **ANDIE** Bennett (773) 474-109

Chicago, IL **BRIDESMAID DRESSES** Ema's

best friend, who was her maid of honor, walked

down the aisle wearing a sage green, full-length

dress with a draped neckline and tiny beaded

straps by Betty & Adam, Macy's **FORMALWEAR**

Norbert wore a Tommy Hilfiger tuxedo. **AFTER**

Hours Formalwear (800) 594-889

INVITATIONS Ema assembled the invitations

herself using washi paper for a Japanese

Materials from Janice Sue (888) 349-468

Pasadena, CA **FLOWERS** La Fleur Florist

(203) 376-7837, Madison **CATERING** Ho

d'oreures included coconut shrimp with

pineapple relish, lobster cigars, and smoked

salmon Napoleons. For the main course, guests

feasted on chicken roulade filled with artichoke

and spinach gratins, petite filets of salmon

with sautéed peas, and cheese-filled baby

ravioles drizzled with lemon-infused sauce

and fresh grape tomatoes. **FOOTNOTES** at

Meadowlands (203) 847-7774 **MUSIC** DJ Kit

Michalski, Sound Investments (203) 798-5679

Danbury **DANCE LESSONS** Renaissance

Ballroom (415) 474-0928, San Francisco, CA

CAKE The golden butter cake was filled

with strawberries and cream and frosted with

Italian meringue buttercream icing. The

Cake Boutique (203) 751-7990, White

FAVORS little white waxed Gourmets Fortune

Cookies (800) 599-2219, San Diego, CA

HONEYMOON French Polynesia