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PETITE SOPHISTICATE

A King Street wedding shows how posh a party down South can be

LAURA CAMP & TRIPP BAILEY

March 14, 2015 • St. Philip's Church & The William Aiken House

Photographs by ELISABETH MILLAY

Wedding Design by KRISTIN NEWMAN

You gotta love a happy coincidence. Take, for instance, when Laura Camp first met Tripp Bailey through mutual friends when they were both living in Washington, D.C. He was sporting a College of Charleston baseball cap and it just so happened that she loved the Holy City, has family here, and, like Tripp, grew up visiting. Beyond their shared admiration of Charleston, they learned they had more in common. "We also shared our style, our beliefs, our love for the same foods, and our love for the South," explains Laura.

Throughout their courtship, the New York City pair visited the town responsible for their first "hello" at least once a year. And four and a half years in, they were relaxing on their favorite bench off Concord Street when Tripp took Laura's left hand and slipped something sparkly on her ring finger. After a surprised "Yes!" they were soon joined by both sets of parents, who had flown in to celebrate with the newly betrothed pair.

In no time, Laura rang up Kristin Newman Designs, a veteran of planning three weddings for various relations in the bride-to-be's family. Kristin especially gravitated to this tailored, put-together couple. "They have a timeless, classic way about them, which is a great fit for us," Kristin says. But that's not to say there's no letting loose. "Laura never has a hair out of place," she says, "but she and Tripp sure love to let their hair down!"

The challenge, then, was to plan a black-tie event that reflected the couple's polished exterior but also invited guests to have a blast. The first step? Setting the tone with a Friday night welcome party at Broad Street's incomparable Blind Tiger Pub, complete with a guest appearance by Lowcountry legend Tony the Peanut Man. For the next day's reception at The William Aiken House, Kristin combined the elegance of a lavish parlor soiree with the laid-back vibe of a backyard bash.

"We wanted a harmonious indoor-outdoor experience," Kristin explains. Cut to dark, waxy garlands twined around railings and suspended from tent tops, al fresco furniture nooks rife with plush velvet

pieces (including a treasured green sofa from Kristin's personal collection), and chandeliers twinkling both in the two-story house and outdoors in the moonlight.

Toss in elements like a cigar bar ("a must for my family," Laura laughs) and enthusiastic use of a custom monogram (the newlyweds added two dozen monogrammed linen napkins to their home collection after the partying), and you have the quintessential Southern garden gathering. And perhaps more than a celebration, it was actually a preview of what's to come. Says Laura, "We both can't wait to move back down South!"

—Jacqui Calloway



(top) "Our flowers were so simple and white," says Laura, who loved pairing cascading satin ribbons with the clean look. (above) Though she was raised in California, Laura's paternal family is from South Carolina and her aunt is a member of St. Philip's. Pennsylvania native Tripp, who grew up vacationing in the Holy City with friends and family, also has ties to the church. (left) His-and-her monograms topped letterpressed program booklets that were finished with ribbon.



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(left) Laura fell head over heels for the monogram that decorated her printed goods, so planner Kristin Newman worked with vendors to re-imagine it several times over. Blossoms Events, for one, embedded monogram plaques in lush greenery at all six bars. (below) Small plates and passed hors d'oeuvres made the evening feel more like a party and not "like a dinner with a little dancing," says Laura. (bottom right) Patrick Properties Hospitality Group dropped decorative (and yes, monogrammed) swizzle sticks into cocktails. (bottom left) Wedding Cakes by Jim Smeal pulled inspiration from the garlands and monogram to fashion an immaculate butter cream covered cake.



vendors

Wedding design: Kristin Newman Designs
Florals, lighting, lounge furniture: Gathering Floral + Event Design
Photography: Elisabeth Millay Photography
Custom bars, cake table, fabric: Blossoms Events
Catering, bar service: Patrick Properties Hospitality Group
China: Polished!
Linens: La Tavola
Bride's attire: Oscar de la Renta (gown, veil)
Stationery: Cool New York
Beauty: Blushing Brides
Menswear: Grady Ervin & Co.

