

“It was a celebration of love, the past, present, and future in a way that was not only visually beautiful, but one that transported our guests back in time to Versailles.”

— ROUZHIN



Brennen from **BRENNEN DEMELO STUDIO** provided the bride's hair styling services and Anna Nenoii of **PIM** provided the bride's makeup application.

The groom's formalwear was from **THE DIRTY INC.** and he wore Tateossian cufflinks from **HARRY ROSEN.**

photography by

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ROUZHIN and NARAM

An Ode to Marie Antoinette's "Enchanted Garden"



Rouzhin's engagement ring was designed and purchased from **WESTROCK DIAMONDS.**

NARAM MANSOUR FIRST CAUGHT SIGHT OF ROUZHIN MEHDIZADEH IN JULY 2005 AT AN ORIENTATION LUNCH AT THE SCHULICH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS. “I FIRST NOTICED HER SMILE AND THOUGHT SHE WAS STUNNING,” SAYS NARAM. A MONTH later, during the school's Frosh Week, Naram decided to approach Rouzhin with the excuse of discussing a school-related matter and soon they found themselves talking all night. It was another month before Naram made the bold move of asking Rouzhin for her MSN contact information and in October they went on their first official date. A decade-long relationship followed, before the couple were engaged.

A few days before Rouzhin's birthday in 2015, Naram surprised her with last-minute plane tickets to Miami. One evening, while they were walking along the beach to dinner, Naram took her hand and pointed to a sand sculpture on the beach that had “She said Yes,” etched into it. Rouzhin thought that this was left from another couple's proposal and carried on walking to their dinner, but Naram pulled her back and showed her that their initials were also etched into the sculpture. When she turned to look back at him, she found him down on one knee. “He was so nervous, it melted my heart,” shares Rouzhin, “I, of course, did say yes!” They ended the evening with a celebratory dinner of seafood and bubbly, toasting to their future.

Rouzhin enlisted Laura Atendido of **LAURA & CO. EVENTS** to provide full-service planning and design assistance and make their Marie Antoinette-themed wedding a reality. Rouzhin had long dreamed of her wedding and had always imagined an event that referenced Sophia Coppola's 2006 film, but in an unexpected and fresh way. The unexpected element they decided upon was the concept of the “enchanted garden,” which would be realized through the extensive use of greenery throughout the decor, created by designer Rachel Clingen of **RACHEL A. CLINGEN WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN.**

The couple's stationery was designed by Beckee Kavanagh of **PAPER & POSTE**. Beckee created a shimmering, blush invitation using thermographic printing that featured a border of white laser cut vines. The invitation and inserts were presented to guests in a box filled with real moss. The completed boxed invitation was tied with a sheer, blush ribbon featuring a die cut keyhole sticker and a vintage brass key.

Rouzhin and Naram exchanged vows twice—their first vow exchange was held at **ST. PAUL'S BASILICA** on July 30, 2016, with a Catholic ceremony representing Naram's Chaldean Iraqi background. Following the Catholic ceremony, guests made their way to the **ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO (AGO)** where the second vow exchange took place with a Sofreh Aghd, in acknowledgement of Rouzhin's Iranian roots, in a ceremony at the modern Walker Court.

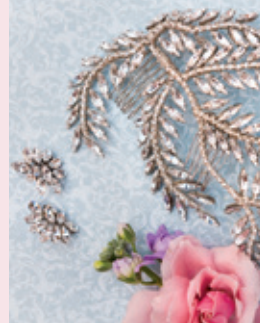


The bride's **INES DI SANTO** gown was purchased at the designer's boutique in Toronto. It was Rouzhin's final appointment and she went in feeling slightly dejected, worried she would never experience that indescribable feeling when trying on the perfect gown. However, the moment she slipped on the lace ball gown, it was love at first sight. "There were tears everywhere," says Rouzhin. Her tulle and French lace-embroidered veil was from **PADINA BONDAR DESIGNS**, who happens to be the bride's cousin.

Bridesmaids wore dresses custom made by Padina Bondar Designs. **SCHULZ BEAUTY** provided hair styling services, creating milkmaid braids for the ladies. Their makeup was applied by May Nguyen of **MUAH BEAUTY**.



The bride's branch-inspired headpiece, hair comb, and bracelet were custom made by **BLAIR NADEAU MILLINERY**. Her earrings were from **BHLDN**.



Rouzhin's pastel bouquet was designed by Rachel Clingen of **RACHEL A. CLINGEN WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN** and featured garden and spray roses, ranunculus, stock, and was accented with trailing clematis, soft foliage, and tied with a powder blue ribbon.

SENTIMENTAL CEREMONY

“Our Persian ceremony was very poetic, sentimental, and tied in my family’s traditions. It was very special to both of us,” reveals Rouzhin. **BITS AND BLOOMS INC.** designed the Sofreh and Rouzhin’s mother contributed meaningful family pieces to the design, including the candelabras that were used at her wedding 35 years before. Bits and Blooms Inc. incorporated imported tiles from Iran and intricate food carvings into the design, while **RACHEL A. CLINGEN WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN** accented the table with lush florals.



CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE RENTALS INC. provided the gold Ghost chairs for the ceremony.



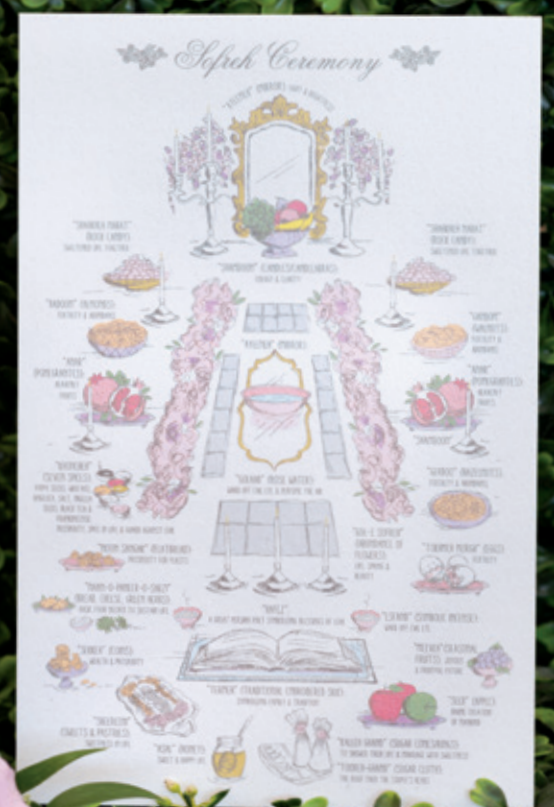
Persian tea and coffee from **BARGESABZ FARZAD PERSIAN TEA & FOOD CATERING** were on offer, with servers dressed in traditional attire.



After the ceremony, guests were able to enjoy treats from a vintage gelato truck courtesy of **DOLCELLA GELATO**. The truck was surrounded by boxwood hedging by **RACHEL A. CLINGEN WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN** to accent the area around the vehicle.



Lexi McKenna of **PAPER & POSTE** designed the couple’s Sofreh ceremony programs that through custom illustrations outlined for guests the symbolic meaning of each item featured on the table.



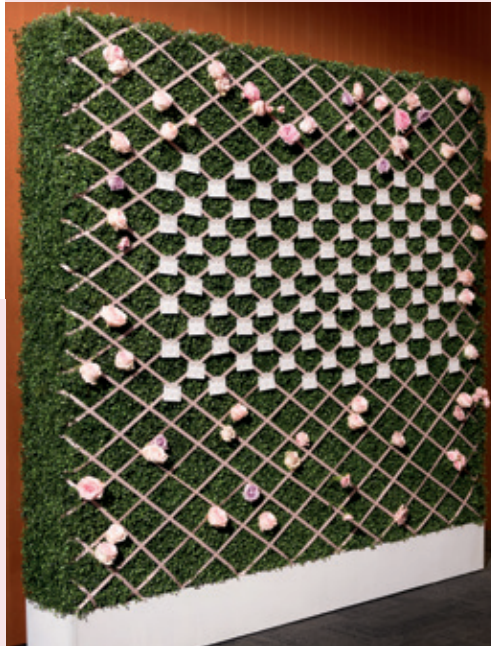


A round bar from CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE RENTALS INC. was topped with floral by Rachel A. Clingen Wedding & Event Design and featured a monogram designed by PAPER & POSTE, which was produced by EVENT GRAFFITI. A lillet rose signature cocktail was offered to guests upon their arrival.

An 8-ft tall escort wall was placed at the front of the reception venue featuring a boxwood hedge from LANDSCAPE SCULPTURES, which was decorated in a lattice design of blush ribbon by Laura & Co. Events, and accented in fresh, fragrant blooms by Rachel A. Clingen Wedding & Event Design. Paper & Poste designed the white laser cut escort cards pinned to the structure.



All of the floral and decor installations were made possible by Alan Bisson and his team at FIREDOG CREATIVE, who provided live event support services, including rigging, audio, visual, and lighting. The 12-ft long by 20-ft wide canopy took the team seven hours to construct!



RACHEL A. CLINGEN WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN collaborated with LAURA & CO. EVENTS on the lush reception floral designs that transported guests into the enchanted garden of Rouzhin and Naram's dreams. In the centre of the room, a canopy of greenery and hanging wisteria was suspended over the dance floor and decorated with five glittering crystal chandeliers from THREE DESIGN. "EVENTURE CUSTOM ENVIRONMENTS AND EVENT DRAPING was commissioned to line the room in a stunning three-dimensional room liner. White fabric spanned each wall, from floor to ceiling. Soft, pink silk panels were suspended in front of the drape line to create a dramatic effect," says Laura Atendido of Laura & Co. Events.



"Our reception was like a scene from Marie Antoinette's castle. I absolutely loved the massive, hanging chandeliers and the suspended floral greenery, it was so different to have the majority of the greenery hanging from the ceiling." — ROUZHIN



GRAND DESIGN

The couple's 16-ft long head table featured greenery and pastel blooms. Behind the table stood a 6-ft tall boxwood hedge wall from LANDSCAPE SCULPTURES, topped with a garland of blush and lilac flowers by RACHEL A. CLINGEN WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN. Hanging above the table were seven crystal chandeliers from THREE DESIGN laden with trailing Italian Ruscus, completing the setting's transformation into a lush, indoor garden.

Laura Atendido of LAURA & CO. EVENTS worked with EVENT GRAFFITI to design a marble tiled dance floor that mimicked the tiled floor found in Marie Antoinette's Petit Trianon, located on the grounds of Versailles. Low boxwood hedging from Landscape Sculptures was placed in white planters and framed the dance floor.

Guest tables were lined with low, coordinating florals in crystal bowls featuring roses, fluffly stock, and mixed greenery, along with floral trees. Breathtaking 4-ft long custom floral boxed chandeliers were suspended over tables, which allowed for unobstructed views and encouraged guests to mingle and truly admire the spectacular designs. Blush linens covered the tables and blue mum hemstitch napkins from **AROUND THE TABLE** and gold Tiffany chairs from **DETAILZ COUTURE EVENT RENTALS** completed the dreamy design.



“We wanted to host a party with a unique theme brought to life in every way, making the experience feel alive with everything you saw, drank, ate, heard, and felt—all being from a beautiful time when things were grand and opulent.”

— ROUZHIN



Place settings captured a feeling of old-world opulence with gilded flatware and gold-rimmed stemware from **CHAIR-MAN MILLS**, gold-rimmed chargers from **DETAILZ COUTURE EVENT RENTALS**, and a dash of Marie Antoinette romance with lilac water goblets from **PLATE OCCASIONS** as well as Majestic China and Blue Marie salad plates from Chair-Man Mills. Attached to each guest's menu was a complimentary ticket to the **AGO** for a return visit.



“We practiced our first dance in the art gallery before any of the guests came in and it felt like a dream to be amongst the hanging greenery, chandeliers, and candelabras all by ourselves,” shares Rouzhin.



Guests were entertained by ballerinas from **HIT & RUN DANCE PRODUCTIONS** and an Iranian and Iraqi folk dance performance from **Iana Komarnytska**, paying homage to their roots.





A lounge area featuring furniture from CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE RENTALS INC. served as the perfect spot for guests to pause for a moment, mingle, and relax.

Guests dined on a delectable Persian-inspired dinner catered by Chef Annick Le Goaix of the AGO that featured a pistachio crusted lamb rack. Laura Gulshani painted the ceremony live and later in the evening, rendered fashion-inspired portraits of guests.



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END NOTES

Alexandria Pellegrino of CAKE OPERA CO. created the couple's opulent cake, inspired by Marie Antoinette and the infamous quote attributed to her, "Let them eat cake!" The six-tier powder blue confection featured carved gold painted accents, which included a gate that opened to an enclosure of sugar flowers. A macaron and a meringue tower flanked the main masterpiece, and all were placed atop a surface of decorative plaster moulding. This presentation was made complete with the 6-ft tall boxwood hedge backdrop that was accented with pink roses and custom decorative moulds from Cake Opera Co.

Music during dinner was provided by DJ Milad from SOLE POWER. OUTSIDE IN STUDIO was on hand to capture and commemorate the opulent event on video for the couple. The dance party was kicked off with music by percussionist Sahab Habibi and violinist Alireza Firoozi. "Having drums beat on the dance floor will always make the party go wild!" exclaims Rouzhin. A late-night buffet of wings, lobster mac and cheese, fried chicken on waffles, and maple sriracha glazed mini beef and cheese sliders was catered by the AGO. Transportation services were provided by A CELEBRITY LIMOUSINE and A ROLLS CHOICE.

A week after the wedding, the couple jetted off to East Africa for a four-week safari adventure, where they visited the bushes of Tanzania and Kenya. From there, they ended their epic trip with a healthy dose of relaxing and scuba diving excursions in the Indian Ocean around the island of Zanzibar. "It was as if we walked into an issue of National Geographic and went on an expedition for a month; it was all so magical," shares Rouzhin.

The newlyweds reside in Toronto where Rouzhin is a marketing and brand manager and Naram is a real estate developer.



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