



12.05.15

## RACHEL & RICH

Despite the December wedding date, there were no signs of winter at this couple's bright and colorful greenhouse affair.

THE FAIRMOUNT HORTICULTURE CENTER, WEST PHILLY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY REDFIELD PHOTOGRAPHY

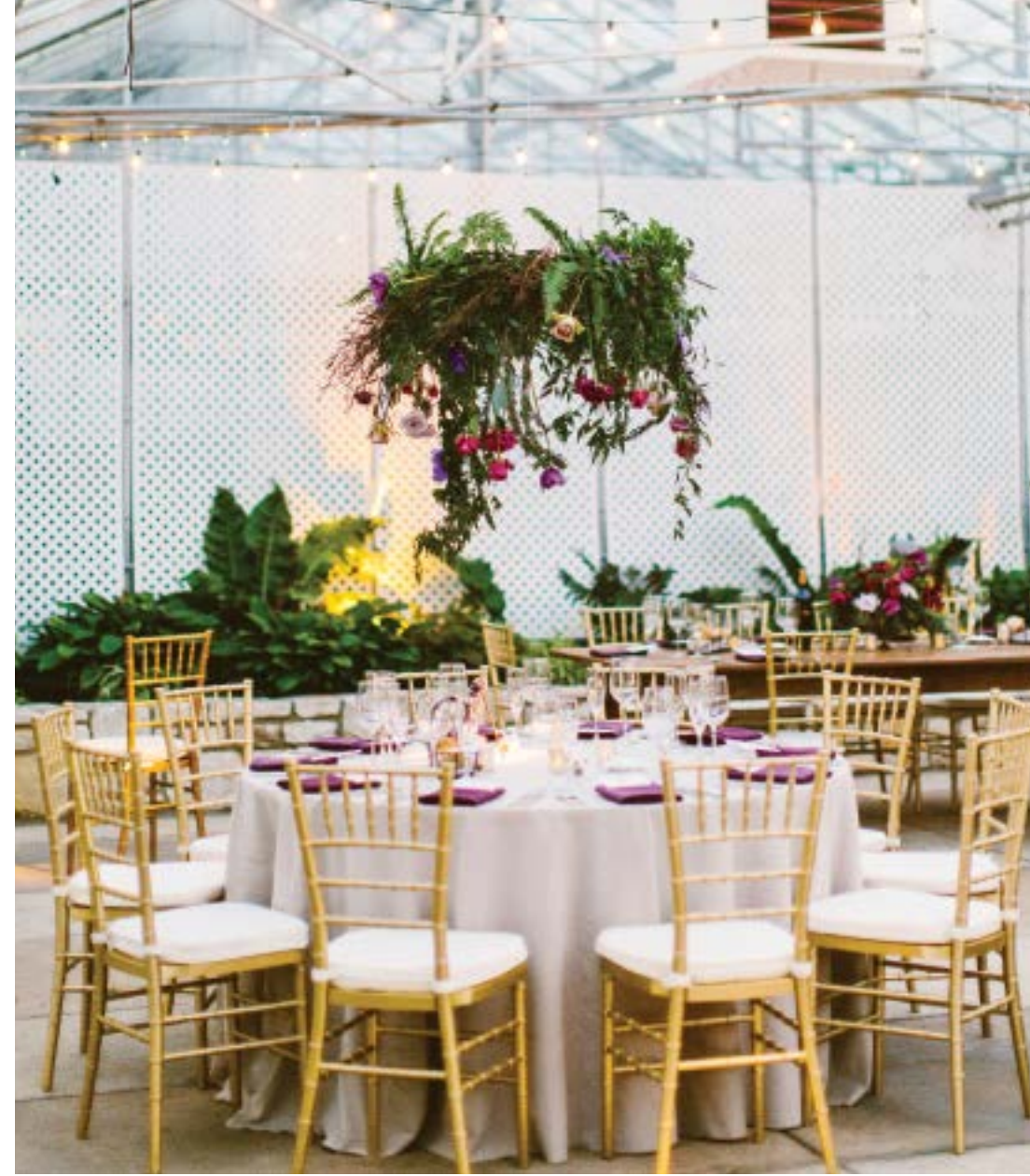
**W**hen Rachel Cyzner agreed to attend a speed-dating event in Old City in September 2013, she figured it would be nothing more than a fun, laughable time out with her girlfriends. Little did she know that seated alongside the “unemployed magician and dude with the fanny pack” was Rich Swartz, the man she’d later marry. “Meeting him was like finding a diamond in the rough,” she says. As it turns out, he felt the same way: After the final bell rang, Rich waited for Rachel at the bar. They exchanged numbers that evening, marking the start of a whirlwind romance. ¶ On December 5, 2014, Rachel arrived home to find their apartment aglow with candlelight and a trail of flowers leading to Rich; he had written “Will you marry me? I love you!” all over their old-school mirrored wall and was standing in a heart of Hershey’s Kisses. In his hand was a cupcake with a sparkling ring on top. ¶ The bride loves Pinterest, and she used the site as a major source of inspiration for her wedding. With the help of an all-star team of vendors, she was able to bring her vision to life. “The best part of planning was working with Nicole Hutnyk of Rabbit Rabbit Crew. She immediately understood the style that we wanted, and quickly noticed that my Pinterest board was filled with floral creations from [Philly florist] Sullivan Owen,” Rachel says. “Nicole also gave me a few lessons on what our venue would and would not allow—apparently having a parade of golden retriever puppies walking down the aisle was not a feasible idea.” ¶ As for Rich, he took the reins in the menu department; he’s a food scientist and chef, so he collaborated with the Starr Catering crew to create an ideal menu. ¶ When the Big Day arrived, exactly one year from when the couple got engaged, it exceeded their every expectation. Even Rachel’s most farfetched wish came true—sort of. “Before we signed the ketubah, Rich and I were sitting in the lobby of the Radisson Blu when two golden retrievers came out of the elevator,” she says. “Of course we ran over to pet them; I was literally on the floor in my wedding dress playing with these pups. It was the most amazing start to the best day of our lives.”



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**Opposite page, clockwise from top:** To add some variety to the reception centerpieces, the team at Sullivan Owen hung floral chandeliers above six of the tables. The same bright blooms from Rachel's bouquet were used in the boutonnieres. The bride's mother is an artist, and since she'd designed Rachel's bat mitzvah invitation many years ago, it only seemed right she take on that task for the wedding as well. She painted the lavender watercolor design that was printed on the invitations. To create the escort card displays, Rachel glued moss onto corkboards and topped them off with ornate gold frames.



### The Details

**VENUE:** The Fairmount Park Horticulture Center, West Philly

**PLANNER:** Rabbit Rabbit Crew, Philadelphia

**CATERING:** Starr Catering Group, Spring Garden

**CAKES:** Cake Life Bake Shop, Fishtown

**FLOWERS:** Sullivan Owen, Old Kensington

**DECOR:** Furniture from Maggie Vintage Rentals, Northeast Philly; lighting and draping by Events Productions, Aston.

**FAVORS:** Golden Road Honey, New York

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Redfield Photography, Philadelphia

**BRIDE'S LOOK:** Watters gown from RK Bridal, New York; moto jacket from Nordstrom; belt from the Wedding Factor, Logan Square; rings from Barrio Neal, Queen Village; hair and makeup by True Beauty Marks, Quakertown.

**GROOM'S FORMAL**

**WEAR:** Armani from Saks Fifth Avenue, Short Hills

**STATIONERY:** Invitations, escort cards and menus designed by Rabbit Rabbit Crew, Philadelphia (artwork by bride's mother); printing by Casa Papel, Northern Liberties.

**MUSIC:** CTO Park Central, Manayunk

**TRANSPORTATION:** Philadelphia Trolley Works, Grays Ferry

**This page, clockwise from above:** Rachel's bridesmaids carried bouquets filled with peonies, ranunculus and Vanda orchids. She gifted them each a black moto jacket to wear on the Big Day—she wore one over her strapless Watters gown, too! The bride has always loved yarn-bomb art installations, so she used that as inspiration when creating the table numbers. (She hand-wrapped them herself.) Rachel and Rich just couldn't decide between all of the yummy flavors at Cake Life Bake Shop, so they settled on a dessert table with several options (like carrot cake and vanilla cake with blueberry compote).

