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# love birds

ALISON MURPHY & RICHARD GARTRELL

23 OCTOBER, 2010

QUEENSLAND STATE LIBRARY & GALLERY OF MODERN ART, SOUTHBANK, QLD

*Alison and Richard, both 25, became engaged at Palazzo Versace hotel on the Gold Coast. 'There were candles and bunches of flowers, rose petals all over the bed, the spa bath was bubbling with candles around it, and there was Moët champagne in a bucket next to the bath!' the bride recalls.*



**SOLITAIRE SPARKLER** The bride sported a 1.5-carat, brilliant-cut, solitaire diamond, set in a platinum knife-edge band from Tiffany & Co. 'I now have two wedding bands surrounding it, both with a row of diamonds set in platinum. Richard has a simple platinum Tiffany & Co. band,' Alison explains.

**BIRD SONG** The couple chose the Bird Song stationery suite from Ruby & Willow and later created a 'seating tree', complete with birds, to help guests find their seats.

*stylist's tip...*

Display individual seating cards so your guests know exactly where they'll be sitting at the reception.







*'We wanted an elegant look, so we went for a black and white theme with fresh green accents.'*



*stylist's tip...*

Use glass hanging baubles filled with flowers to create an elegant, ethereal feel.



**LAVISH BANQUET** The couple celebrated with a seated reception on the Roof Top Terrace of the Gallery of Modern Art at the Queensland Art Gallery. 'We liked that modern architecture backdrop and the Brisbane city skyline. The landscape is urban with shades of green, which sat perfectly with our black and white classic theme,' says Alison. Guests dined at two long tables with 60 people at each and the bridal party was positioned in the middle of the action.

**ELEGANT BLOOMS** The bride carried an elegant bouquet of David Austin roses, spray roses and freesias by Always Fabulous Flowers. This look was continued on the reception tables with silver bowls filled with an abundance of roses, green snowballs, freesias, black ivy berries, carnations, chrysies and pittosporum foliage. Glass baubles contained green spider chrysies, green carnations and white roses, and were hung with black and white striped ribbon.

*sources list*

- ALWAYS FABULOUS FLOWERS (FLOWERS) [allfabflowers.com.au](http://allfabflowers.com.au)
- CAXTON ST CATERING (CATERING) [caxtonstcatering.com.au](http://caxtonstcatering.com.au)
- DARB BRIDAL COUTURE (GOWN) [darbbridalcouture.com.au](http://darbbridalcouture.com.au)
- RUBY & WILLOW (STATIONERY) [rubyandwillow.co.nz](http://rubyandwillow.co.nz)
- QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY (RECEPTION) [qag.qld.gov.au](http://qag.qld.gov.au)
- STUDIO IMPRESSIONS (PHOTOS) [studioimpressions.com.au](http://studioimpressions.com.au)
- STYLED EVENTS (EVENT STYLIST) [styledevents.com.au](http://styledevents.com.au)
- TIFFANY & CO. (RINGS) [au.tiffany.com](http://au.tiffany.com)



**FAIRYTALE GOWN** Alison wore a Darb Bridal Couture gown with a strapless French lace bodice encrusted with Swarovski crystals, and a full organza skirt. 'I wanted a princess-style gown,' Alison admits. 'Since I was a little girl I'd dreamt of a big puffy skirt!' Her bridesmaids wore black, full-length Juli Grbac gowns.

