

AN INDIAN WEDDING IN BUDAPEST

A CELEBRATION
BEYOND BORDERS

TOMAS DE BRUYNE





The vision

PHOTOGRAPY

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EVENT Company

E-Factor

A Fusion of Cultures, Creativity, and Unforgettable Moments

In 2020, I had the privilege of being introduced to a remarkable Indian family through an esteemed event company. They entrusted me with the honor of designing their son's wedding, a celebration rooted in the enchanting landscapes of Rajasthan, India. Little did I know, this would mark the beginning of an extraordinary journey together.

Fast forward to their daughter's wedding, the setting shifted from the vibrant colors of India to the heart of Europe—Budapest. Nestled near my home, this city became the canvas for a celebration that was as grand as it was deeply personal. Known for their impeccable taste, vast knowledge, and a heritage of beauty, the family sought to craft a once-in-a-lifetime experience for their guests.

Together with the event company, we embarked on a creative adventure filled with challenges, setbacks, and moments of triumph. Turning the impossible into reality demanded resilience, innovation, and an unwavering open mindset. Each obstacle was met not as a roadblock, but as a unique opportunity to redefine what was possible—a philosophy I hold at the core of my work.

This wedding wasn't just an event; it was an immersive experience that moved hundreds of guests who traveled from India to witness it. Here, I invite you to step behind the scenes and explore the artistry, creativity, and sheer passion that brought this extraordinary vision to life.

Tomas De Benyne

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THANK YOU



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01

A GRAND ARRIVAL

Baraat





The Baraat is more than just a procession—it is a jubilant celebration of love, friendship, and the groom's transformative journey toward marriage. At this wedding, the Baraat was a vibrant display of joy and togetherness, symbolizing the union of two families. Surrounded by his closest friends, the groom was the center of energy and excitement as they laughed, danced, and celebrated their way to the Toran gate.

This moment was not merely festive; it marked the groom's readiness to embrace his new role and the merging of two families into one. The decorated car carrying the groom became a symbol of tradition and cultural richness, a moving celebration in its own right. As it approached the intricately designed Toran gate, anticipation filled the air, for this was the gateway to the next sacred chapter in the wedding rituals.

The scene struck a perfect harmony between festivity and reverence. The groom's arrival, brimming with life and celebration, set the tone for the day—a beautiful fusion of joy, tradition, and cultural meaning. It was a moment that left a lasting impression, embodying the essence of love, family, and heritage.







02

DESIGNING THE
GATE

Torran







Designing the Toran Gate: Balancing Budget and Tradition.

When tasked with designing the Toran gate, budget constraints posed a significant challenge. While the family was willing to forget the gate if necessary, we knew the spiritual and cultural significance of this element was too profound to overlook. The Toran is more than a decorative feature –it's a symbol of blessings, protection, and the gateway to the sacred wedding space. It was clear we needed to go the extra mile to make it work, ensuring this pivotal moment retained its impact while staying within financial boundaries.

To achieve this, we opted for a standardized approach instead of custom-built elements. Using trusses as the structural base allowed us to significantly reduce costs without compromising the grandeur of the gate. Prefabricated decorative elements, carefully designed to honor tradition, were prepared in advance and added during the setup. This decision not only streamlined the process but also aligned with the logistical constraints of the venue. Given that the castle's entrance could not be blocked until the day prior to the wedding, the planning had to be meticulous. We had just one day to complete the setup, which required every detail to be executed with precision. Timing, logistics, and coordination were crucial to ensuring a smooth operation and a flawless result.

Despite the challenges, the Toran gate came together beautifully, blending practicality with cultural reverence. It stood as a testament to the importance of balancing tradition with innovation and planning, delivering a meaningful experience for the family and their guests.









03

DESIGNING
MOMENTS THAT
RESONATE

Chapel





One of the most breathtaking highlights of this event was the bride's exit from the chapel—a moment filled with emotion, beauty, and intention. But creating such a memorable experience is about more than just flowers or decor. It's about balance.

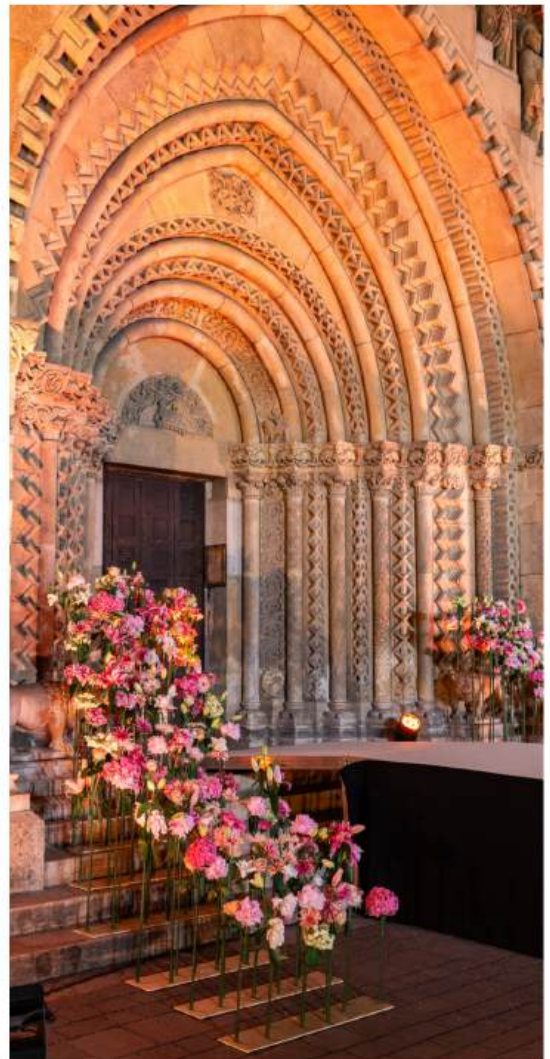
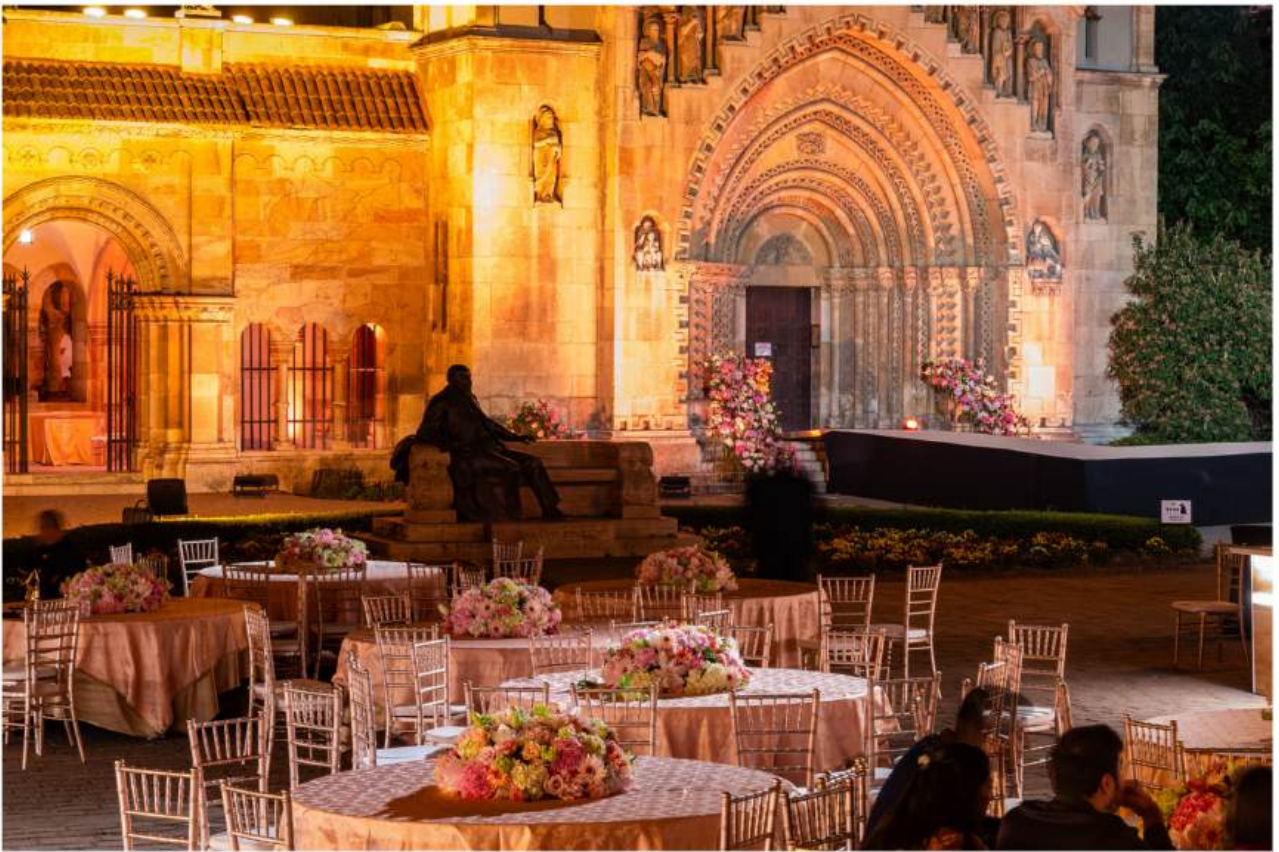
In any event, the budget is not a limitation—it's a framework. Knowing where to focus allows us to craft a journey for the guests, guiding them through moments of awe, reflection, and exhilaration. An event is like an orchestra, with every element playing its part. The designer acts as the conductor, weaving together moments of harmony, pauses for reflection, and bursts of energy to create an unforgettable crescendo.

Above all, our purpose is clear: to ensure the bride shines at her very best. The flowers are not the star of the show but her ultimate supporters—crafted to lift her presence, to frame her radiance, and to enhance the platform on which she stands. That's what we do: design to add value.

Setting a hierarchy in design is key. It's about understanding what matters most, where to direct attention, and how to make an impact without compromise. When resources are limited, creativity takes center stage. It's not about what you don't have; it's about what you can create with what you do.

In this case, rather than relying on sheer abundance, we turned to perspective and ingenuity. The flowers were designed to appear as if they were floating, creating a visual effect that was both refined and captivating. The result? A moment so impactful that it stayed with every guest long after the event had ended.

Because true design isn't about extravagance—it's about intention, focus, and creating something that resonates deeply with the soul.







04

THE VARMALA
CEREMONY

Varmala

A Celebration Framed by *Vajdahunyad* Castle.

There was no better backdrop for the Varmala ceremony than the majestic entrance of Vajdahunyad Castle in Budapest. Nestled in the City Park by a serene boating lake, this romantic castle, despite its medieval appearance, is a masterpiece of 19th-century design. Built in 1896, it is a fantasy pastiche that showcases Hungary's architectural evolution across centuries and styles. Its rich character provided the ideal canvas for this deeply symbolic ritual.

The design concept for the Varmala ceremony was rooted in honoring the grandeur of the castle while blending it seamlessly with Indian tradition. The facade, with its intricate details and timeless beauty, became the inspiration. By analyzing the architecture, we envisioned a way to enhance its natural charm while ensuring the ceremony's cultural significance shone through.

Elaborating on the existing elements of the entrance, we introduced lush floral columns that framed the space beautifully. To create harmony with the environment, plants were carefully placed along the stairs, transforming them into a podium where the ritual would unfold. This thoughtful addition not only complemented the setting but also bridged the gap between two rich cultural heritages.

The result was a seamless blend of traditions—a respectful merging of Hungarian architectural elegance with the vibrant symbolism of Indian rituals. The final design captured the spirit of the ceremony, proving that when cultures come together with intention and respect, the outcome becomes greater than the sum of its parts.











05 CRAFTING THE MALA

Mala





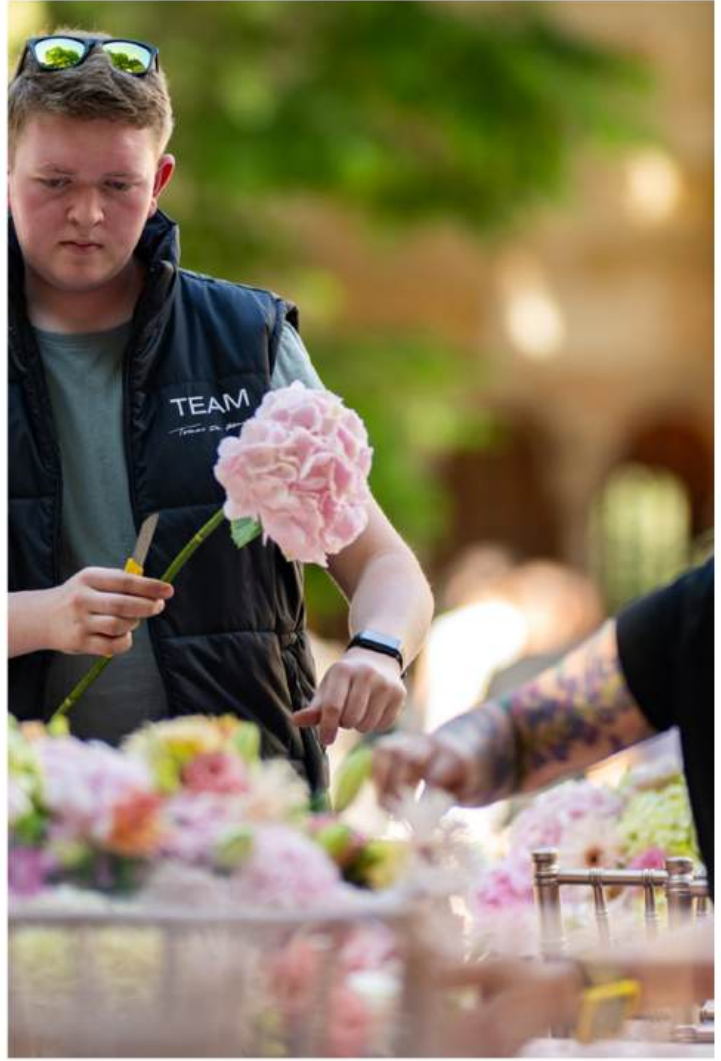
During the mockup session, the bride's father made an unexpected and heartfelt request: to design the malas for the wedding ceremony. These garlands, central to the rituals, symbolize mutual acceptance and the sacred bond between the couple. Initially, I declined, fully aware of the immense skill, tradition, and artistry involved in their creation. The process demands precision, patience, and a profound respect for Indian culture.

The father, however, was persistent. He recognized my deep understanding of Indian weddings and believed I could bring something innovative yet respectful to the design. When he looked me in the eye and said, "This will be your gift to my daughter. You cannot refuse," his sincerity left me no choice but to accept the challenge.

To honor this trust, I began preparing one of my team members, ensuring they learned the craft and approached the process with the respect it deserved. I also wanted to infuse the garlands with a unique global element. Drawing inspiration from Córdoba, Spain—where I had previously worked—I incorporated a delicate filigree motif into the design. This touch added a creative, out-of-the-box dimension while remaining deeply rooted in tradition.

When the four Varmalas (two distinct designs—one for the Jaimala and the other for the Mandap ceremony) were finally completed, they became more than just garlands. They represented a harmonious fusion of cultures, a testament to creativity, and, most importantly, a heartfelt expression of love and respect for the family. Seeing them adorn the couple during the ceremonies was profoundly satisfying—a reminder of how tradition and innovation can blend beautifully, leaving an indelible mark on such a special day.







06

THE STORY OF THE

Mandaps





THE STORY OF THE

06

Mandaps



The family entrusted me with not just the floral artistry but also the architectural design of the mandap—an honor and a challenge that demanded both reverence and innovation.

The mandap, a sacred canopy, is the heart of any Indian wedding, symbolizing the universe itself. It is under this structure that the most pivotal rituals unfold: the sacred fire, the vows, and the merging of two souls in the presence of family and the divine. Each of its four pillars represents the support of the bride and groom's parents, anchoring the foundation of their future life together.

Understanding this profound significance, I knew this wasn't simply about creating art; it was about honoring a timeless tradition while weaving in a narrative of elegance and individuality. My role as a designer was to embrace the family's cultural rituals and expectations while ensuring that the design resonated with beauty, grace, and a sense of belonging.





Designing the mandap in Budapest brought unique challenges. We were no longer in India, where the abundance of affordable labor and locally sourced materials shapes the approach to design. Instead, we had to reimagine how to achieve the same level of grandeur and impact within the constraints of European logistics and budgets.

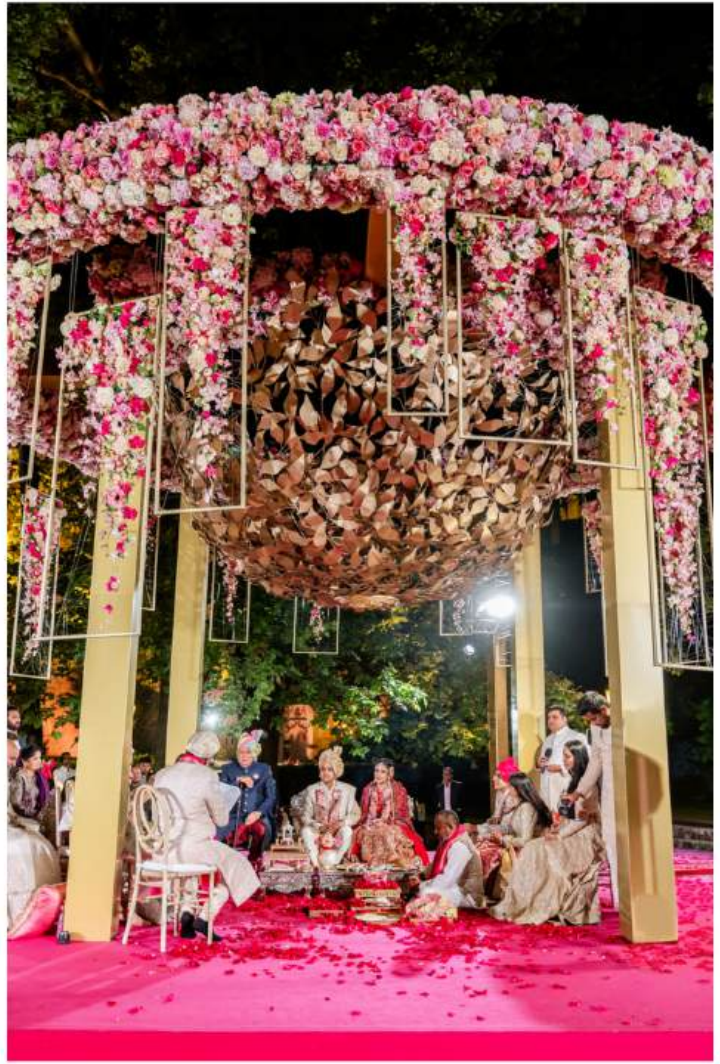
This required not only creativity but a deep understanding of the cultural expectations tied to the mandap itself—a space that is as much spiritual as it is aesthetic. Each decision was deliberate, from the selection of materials to the integration of intricate floral designs. It was about ensuring the mandap honored its role as a sacred space while reflecting the family's vision.

Balancing reverence for tradition with the innovation needed to bring it to life in a new setting demanded a collaborative and thoughtful process. In the end, the mandap stood as a testament to this balance—a breathtaking focal point that carried the weight of tradition while captivating all who gathered to witness the union of two souls.











07

THE WEDDING
RECEPTION

Reception

A Grand Finale of Elegance and Celebration.

The wedding reception is more than just a dinner party—it is the culmination of days of celebration, where two families come together to honor the newlyweds in a shared space of joy, gratitude, and love. It's a moment where guests experience the full grandeur of the event, leaving them with lasting memories of beauty and harmony. For this wedding, the reception demanded a design that not only reflected the couple's refined taste but also overcame the unique challenges of the venue.

The reception was held under a grand canopy, whose sheer size posed a challenge for creating the desired intimacy and visual impact. Restrictions on attaching elements to the roof added another layer of complexity, requiring us to reimagine how to 'fill' the space with flowers while maintaining a sense of balance, and elegance.

The chosen pastel color palette, though subtle and sophisticated, presented its own challenge: creating visual depth and impact without overpowering the delicate tones. The solution lay in embracing the beauty of repetition. By using design elements in a geometric, rhythmic pattern, we created a sense of cohesion and harmony that drew the eye throughout the space.

Going vertical was another key approach. Towering floral arrangements and carefully proportioned forms added height and grandeur, transforming the vast canopy into an immersive floral wonderland. The detailing, however, remained central to the design—each bloom, every texture, and each element was curated with precision, ensuring the space felt both awe-inspiring and intimately personal.









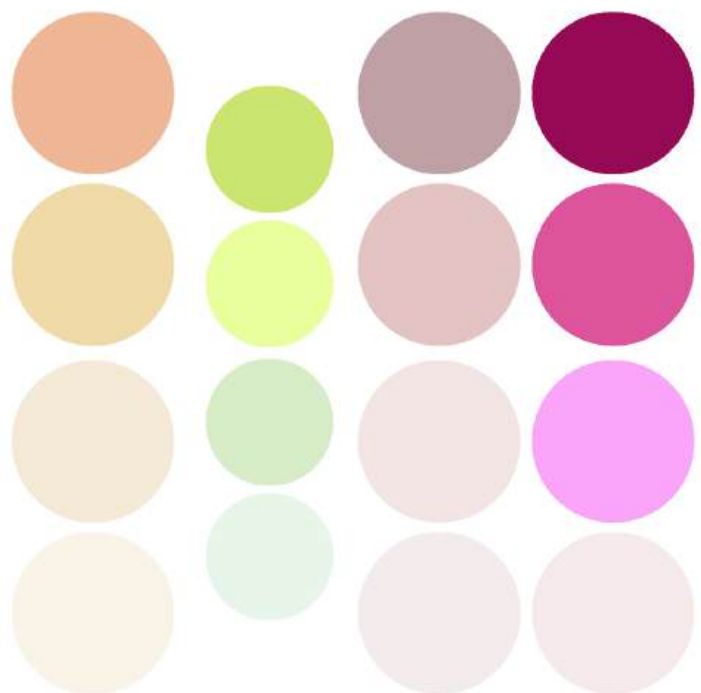
The setting—a romantic castle—provided the perfect backdrop, its timeless elegance and architectural grandeur adding depth to the design. This historic venue became the ideal canvas for merging Hungarian and Indian cultures into a visually captivating experience.

After a detailed mockup visit and thoughtful discussions with the client and event planner, the vision began to take shape. The palette balanced the romantic softness of European traditions with the bold, vibrant tones of Indian celebrations. Each color was carefully selected not only for its visual appeal but for the feelings it inspired—warmth, joy, and sophistication.

Botanicals played a crucial role in reinforcing this vision. Soft roses and lush peonies embodied romance and elegance, while vibrant marigolds, emblematic of Indian festivities, added cultural richness. Together, these elements wove a story that seamlessly united two traditions into a design that was authentic, meaningful, and utterly unique.

This wedding was more than a celebration—it was a collaboration of artistry and storytelling. It balanced heritage and innovation, creating an experience that reflected the couple's identity and left a lasting impression on everyone present.

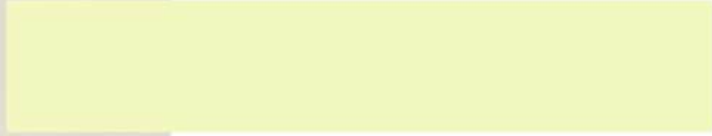




Color plays a vital role in any wedding, commanding attention and creating an immediate visual impact. It is the thread that weaves through every design element, from flowers to fabrics, bringing harmony and emotion to the celebration. Defining a color palette goes beyond aesthetics –it’s about selecting shades that evoke a mood, tell a story, and shape the event’s atmosphere.

For this wedding, the goal was to create a romantic European aesthetic rooted in Hungarian culture, enriched with the vibrant charm of Indian traditions. The challenge was to blend these distinct styles into a unified and harmonious narrative that honored the couple’s heritage and love story.





AHEAD OF THE CURV

Crafting Trend-Inspired Color Palettes with a Unique Twist

This color palette takes its inspiration from one of the 2025 trend forecasts, serving as a springboard for innovation. To align with the client's desire for a more vibrant expression, we introduced a richer, more dynamic burgundy to elevate the design and add depth. This approach highlights how trends can act as a guide, but true design lies in adapting them to create a palette that feels fresh, compelling, and uniquely tailored. It's about not just staying in sync with emerging trends, but redefining them—keeping your work ahead of the curve and full of intentional impact.







Where Vision Meets Detail

Every design begins as a conversation. It's the quiet exchange of ideas, the exploration of possibilities, and the careful alignment of creativity with purpose. Together, we embark on a journey, shaping a concept into something tangible and extraordinary.

It's in this collaborative process that the details begin to emerge—not as isolated decisions but as part of a greater story. The way light falls in a space, the interplay of colors, the balance of textures—each element is chosen with care, not only to complement the environment but to elevate the entire experience.

Behind the scenes, there's an intentional rhythm to what we do. Each piece is thoughtfully considered, every layer refined, and nothing is left to chance. It's not about perfection for its own sake but about ensuring that every detail has meaning and contributes to the whole.

This commitment to the process is what defines us. It's about creating with precision, honoring the unique character of every project, and bringing a sense of artistry to even the smallest moments.

Because in the end, it's not just about what is created—it's about the journey of creating it.







Thank you

A Heartfelt Thanks to an Exceptional Team.

Reflecting on this extraordinary wedding, I am filled with immense gratitude for everyone who contributed to its success. An event of this magnitude is only possible through collaboration, creativity, and unwavering dedication.

To the planners, designers, creators, vendors, and every individual who played a part—thank you for your hard work and passion. From the smallest details to the grandest installations, your efforts brought the vision to life in the most beautiful way.

To my incredible team, whose talent and commitment never cease to amaze me, and to those behind the scenes who ensured everything ran seamlessly—your contributions were invaluable.

Finally, to the couple and their families, thank you for entrusting us with this special day. It was a privilege to be part of your journey and create memories that will last a lifetime.

This event was a true testament to the magic of teamwork and the power of shared purpose. Together, we created something extraordinary and unforgettable.

Tomas De Benyne