

# A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

ROMANCE BLOOMS AMID ART, ARTIFACTS AND HISTORY AT FIVE RENOWNED INSTITUTIONS. BY ELIZABETH KEPHART REISINGER



JILL AND MARK SCULLARD LET MINNEAPOLIS' WALKER ART CENTER BE ONE OF THE STARS OF THE DAY AT THEIR CONTEMPORARY FEBRUARY RECEPTION.



PHOTOS BY: LACY/HANKY PHOTOGRAPHY.

ON MAY 1ST, 2009, MARK MESA GOT DOWN ON ONE KNEE IN FRONT OF the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul and proposed to his girlfriend of five years, Krista Spahn. He knew of Krista's love for the museum and her desire to have her wedding there. "I fell in love with it in 2004 after a friend's wedding was there," Krista Mesa says of the museum. "I really love the big balcony they have overlooking the river. The Science Museum is something different, not a traditional hall or hotel."

After she said yes, it was no wonder that the

## ROOM WITH A VIEW

Museum venues are some of the most unusual buildings in Minnesota. "We wanted something very different than the traditional," says Molly McKee Mullins, whose May 8th wedding reception took place at the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis. "We fell in love with the Weisman. It was a beautiful space. People would have an opportunity to look around the gallery and have something to do besides chat."

Perched on the Mississippi River, the Weisman, with a dramatic stainless steel exterior, overlooks Minneapolis' skyline. Inside, the museum, designed by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry and known for its 20th century American art collection, is undergoing a major expansion that closed its doors to the public in

but most weddings find the Skyline room, with its famed asymmetrical window, a perfect space for a reception. The food is also a big draw, with Wolfgang Puck Catering as the exclusive vendor.

## UNIQUE SPACES

The Minnesota History Center's unique architecture was a big draw for bride Katie McWey, who held her May 1 reception there. Constructed of Minnesota granite and limestone with marble accents, the exterior is elegant and contemporary. Inside, two of its many perks are the vast open rooms with vaulted ceilings and the views of the St. Paul skyline, the Cathedral of Saint Paul and the Minnesota State Capitol.



POSING IN FRONT OF AMAZING WORKS OF ART WAS HALF THE FUN FOR MINNEAPOLIS COUPLE MOLLY AND BRIAN MULLINS, WHO MARRIED AT THE WEISMAN ART MUSEUM LAST MAY.

only place she looked to have her June 26th wedding reception was the Science Museum. "It was definitely fun and special," Mesa says. "It was the perfect location, and everything was just amazing."

Mesa isn't alone in her choice of venue. Many Minnesota brides are looking to museums—artistic, historic, even cultural spaces—for their wedding ceremonies and receptions. With stunning artwork adorning the walls and surroundings filled with spectacular artifacts, it's not hard to see why. But these brides note that museums, like many other venues, have their own reception guidelines, so be ready to ask questions and read the fine print.

PHOTOS BY: STUDIO 306

October 2010. The museum will reopen in the fall 2011 for weddings and other events.

Minneapolis bride Jill Scullard aligned her personal passions with her wedding dollars. "We are both huge art fans, and I'm such big fan of the Walker," she says of her Feb. 21st reception at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. "To support them in this way, it felt good to me. We had our reception at a venue that we were both really inspired by and loved. It was so much more personal."

The Walker, like the Weisman, boasts striking contemporary architecture and another breathtaking view of downtown Minneapolis. Rooms of various sizes are available for rent,

"We loved the architecture, and we loved that the building spoke for itself," says McWey.

John and Cathy Pohlrad looked to The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA) in Minneapolis for their small wedding ceremony on March 19th. The museum is tucked away in south Minneapolis, a dramatic building off the radar of many local brides, and features an exceptional collection of Russian art and artifacts.

"TMORA was a perfect size for us, old but contemporary in feel, and a good mix of old and new," says Cathy Pohlrad.

"It was unpredictable and it wasn't the same old thing," John adds.