



GILLIAN SHELTON
AND
TIM HECKENDORF

NEXT-DOOR AMOUR

A KISS ON THE PORCH LEADS
TO A COUPLE OF NEIGHBORS
EXCHANGING VOWS IN A STUNNING
BAROQUE AFFAIR BENEATH SOARING
DOMED CEILINGS AND ATOP
SPRAWLING EXPANSES OF MARBLE.

→ BY JENNA MCCARTHY
→ PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHERI PEARL PHOTOGRAPHY



Accents of brown and
vivid green on a white
backdrop give the formal
a fresh, clean look.

THE DETAILS

Venue

St. Francis

Wedding Planner

Lisa Vance, Oh Yes Charming

Bridal Designers

Rebecca's Place, The Bride of

Destiny, Jessica's Bride of

San Francisco, and more

Christina, and more

Floral Designers

Flora Design, Barbara Lohr

Wedding Cake

Wedding Cake

Jewelry

Dianna's Jewelry

Floral Design

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For some lucky, every day is a wedding day. For Gillian Sheldon, it's no surprise. The 30-year-old producer of digital brand for television production (ABC) was busy doing "all the wedding" when she met her neighbor Tim Heckendorf, who works in corporate finance for the film industry. "We started hanging out and I'd find myself peering over to see if he was home. A friend kept saying, 'You should date that guy' but I was terrified," admits Gillian. "It was so surreal and kind of magical. I had it in my head that I wouldn't date some really L.A. sort of guy. Plus, I loved my apartment and I thought if he didn't work out, one of us would have to move." Three months later, she was hooked. "I liked her. I was in shock," she admits, "and really happy."

The two quickly became inseparable. One Saturday morning, Tim woke Gillian at 6:30 and announced he was making breakfast. A few minutes later, he called her to the kitchen to help. "I was really groggy," she admits. "I didn't even see him, I just wanted coffee." The pulled gently from the kitchen, where Tim pointed her something underneath the toaster. She took a bite and said, "Gillian, will you marry me?" right in the middle. "I was eating cereal, I had my glasses on, and my hair was in a bun!" Gillian laughs. Tim had assembled a group of their closest friends and invited a priest to the kitchen, where they all stood around looking for the rest of the day.

Gillian wanted her wedding elegant and formal but not at all stuffy. She was working planner Lisa Vance while covering a celebrity wedding for ABC, and the two wanted a simple ceremony. The couple's budget wasn't small, but "we were particular about how we wanted to spend our money," Gillian says. "Language is so important about what we could and couldn't do, and what we did and didn't want."

While creating the ceremony, Gillian found a link to Vietnam, a stunning ceremony for her Catholic culture. Having recently undergone a multimillion-dollar renovation and expansion into an even grander space, the church's striking baroque columns, soaring 45-foot domed ceilings, and sprawling marble floor perfectly evoked the romance Gillian was after.

Gillian went to "every store in L.A." and tried on "a million dresses" from Carolina Herrera to Oscar de la Renta before landing an elegant option: one in a small hotel shop that made her swoon. After searching for months for the perfect dress, she hit upon a beautiful pair of diamond-encrusted Christian Louboutin pumps just a month before the big day. "I knew I didn't want shoes, but I couldn't find what I wanted," Gillian says. "When I saw these, it was like looking for the holy grail."

Gillian and Tim's wedding day started early and beautiful. "It was hot," she admits cheerfully. "The girls had all week with each other in Vietnam's scorching sun, so when it was perfect they didn't mind a game of catch with their pants. Gillian and Tim were making, respectively, on the night they got her and through their kitchen windows. Afterward, a DJ played dance music, blues, and '80s favorites. Instead of making her bouquet, Gillian opted to present it to her mother, whose 40th anniversary was the next day. An In-N-Out truck made a special late-night delivery before the bus arrived to take the party back to the hotel. "We tried to go to the bar, but it was closed," explains Gillian, who then visited another wedding venue up in the adjacent hills. "Tim said, 'Gillian, do you go to church?' Gillian giggles, but when the other bride appeared, she begged her to come in. The two ended up dancing to DJay Malmgren's "Bustle" cheer song, "Come On, Eileen." "I created another wedding on my wedding day," Gillian laughs. "It was fabulous." ☺