

**\*NEW\* Kate & Sean: From Classic to Contemporary in Parkville, MO**

These Missouri natives planned a colorful palette with many personal touches lovingly created by family members.



**THE BRIDE** Kate Brotske, 25, server  
**THE GROOM** Sean Ketcherside, 25,  
student and office manager

**THE DATE** May 8

**THE SCENE** The intimate ceremony and reception took place at the newly built chapel and reception hall at The Hawthorne House,

**FROM SLEIGH BELLS TO WEDDING BELLS**

After some Christmas shopping, Sean Ketcherside suggested he and his girlfriend Kate Brotske take a carriage ride through Country Club Plaza in Kansas City to enjoy the lights. "It was a chilly night, so I wasn't excited about waiting in the cold," recalls Kate. During the ride, Sean warmed a frosty Kate by giving her a Christmas present: "Much to my surprise, it was a ring!" At home, Kate insisted Sean "re-propose" and get down on one knee -- because he couldn't do so in the carriage. Of course, her answer was still yes.



**NATIVE NUPTIALS** The Missouri natives turned to the past for planning inspiration. Sean remembered a beautiful wedding he once attended at The Hawthorne House. "We went to check it out and they were building a new chapel and reception hall," Sean says. Despite the construction, it was love at first site for Kate. They stopped looking and





booked it.



**BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL** To mark the day, Kate chose bright, vibrant colors: rapture red, clematis vine (a purplish blue), fresh lime, plus glorious gold and silver accents. Handmade invitations gave guests a first glimpse of the bold palette. Kate's sister, Anne, an art student, created a design with purple paper and silver ink. A red reply card with silver writing completed the colorful package.



**SISTERLY LOVE** Anne also created photo albums with pictures of the two as children and as a couple for each table. For favors, she painted "Kate and Sean, May 8, 2004" in white on glass votive candleholders and at the bottom, also in white paint, stamped a picture of a bride and groom dancing. Kate exclaims, "My sister was a huge help!"



**A FAMILY AFFAIR** Anne wasn't the only family member to help personalize the wedding. Sean designed programs using a picture he found online of "two small children at a wedding that looked like us." He lightened the image, placed a poem over it, and printed the programs on textured off-white linen stock. The intimate ceremony featured one more special addition: the groom's mother and stepfather officiated.



**MODERNITY MEETS CHARM** In vivid cranberry red dresses, five bridesmaids walked down the aisle of the newly built and "really elegant" small chapel set on 11 sprawling acres. The couple managed to fill the modern chapel with old-fashioned warmth-votive candles glowed in each window, while



candelabra, flowers, and a unity candle adorned the altar. Gray buckets, hung from alternating pews, were bursting with flowers that matched the bouquets (yellow mini calla lilies, purple linanthus, lime green viburnum, and red spray roses).

**CREATIVE CONFECTIONS** The cozy mood shifted to the reception space highlighted by "beautiful hardwood floors with gorgeous chandeliers," notes Kate. All-white linens and rose petals graced the tables, and fresh flowers accented the four-tier cake speckled with dots. Dessert included yet another family member's creative touch: Sean's 92-year-old stepgrandmother handmade 200 buttercream mints to accompany each piece of cake!



**FLOATING HOLIDAY** The couple left the reception for their Jamaican honeymoon in a stream of bubbles. This time, Kate didn't ask for a redo.

-- *Carol Itzkowitz*  
Photography © Mike Freeland  
Photography



For the ingredients that make up this wedding, see the right-hand column of the page.