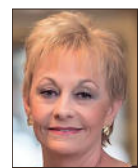


Wedding dress distress: Just say no to the 'bridal gown-zilla'

Question: My neighbor makes wedding gowns from home and has a reputation for being both extremely talented and extremely difficult to work with. I've heard horror stories about how she gets in a bad mood and becomes really unpleasant sometimes with customers.



Gwen Carden
Good Neighbor

Our daughter is getting married in the fall, and this woman has been bugging us to let her make the dress. She even brought over a couple of unsolicited sketches (the designs were lovely).

I'm afraid to hire her. What if something goes wrong? What if she's as nasty to us as I've heard that she's been to others? I have to see this woman often. I feel like I'm doomed whether I do or I don't.

Answer: I think you should say "I do" to getting the dress elsewhere.

If you're feeling this uncomfortable now, imagine how you'd feel if this

bridal gown-zilla turned out to be as bad as her reputation. The fact that she brought you sketches tells me she may have her heart in the right place, but the journey to the end product could be worse than a wedding cake delivery man on roller skates.

Exuberantly thank her for her time doing the sketches but tell her your daughter already has her heart set on a gown she found elsewhere. Counter any objections with shrugged shoulders and say something like "you know how stubborn a woman can be about her wedding gown."

Maybe devise some other way this seamstress could contribute, possibly with advice on helping design the décor for the tables at the venue or making some special favors for the guests. It's always easier to avoid a disaster than try to clean up after one, and this pertains to neighbor relations, too.

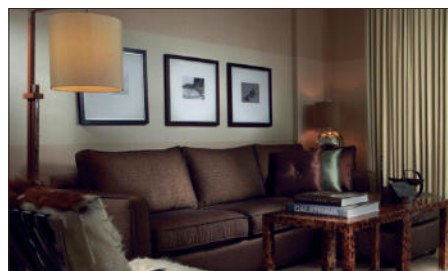
Gwen Carden has a master's degree in mental health counseling. For advice on resolving a problem, e-mail neighbor@cardencreative.com.

Creating picture-perfect design

Open the pages of any shelter magazine and you are likely to find stylish interiors with framed photographs on the walls. From small, colorful instant prints to black-and-white mural-sized images, photographs have found acceptance as art. Almost any image can be studied, taken out of its natural context and, under the right light, shot to produce an artful wall hanging. The themes are endless, from real and imagined landscapes to close-ups of plants and even photographic reproductions of your DNA.

Some tips:

- A starting point in decorating with photographs is to concentrate the photos on a particular theme. Sailboats, flowers or beach scenes, for example, can make a cohesive display.
- Start with a larger central image and add smaller secondary images around the perimeter.
- Sometimes certain powerful images are best viewed on their own without any



To reinforce your grouping of photographs, consider painting the wall a contrasting color to the rest of the room.

other distracting images around them.

- Trust your intuition when grouping photos. This is part of your personal expression.

- To reinforce your grouping of photographs, consider painting the wall a contrasting color to the rest of the room. Black-and-white photos show especially well on a colored background.

- Use a unifying color for matting and frames for a random grouping.

- Don't be afraid to mix vintage frames and photographs with newer ones. The mix can create a lot of visual interest.

JTHS-MIAMI, a Division of the MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

West Palm Beach ranked No. 4 in the world for largest increase of millionaires

West Palm Beach has ascended to the fourth rank globally as a preferred destination for the ultra-wealthy, according to a Henley & Partners report. This distinction highlights the city's growing appeal to individuals with over \$1 million in investable assets, showcasing a significant shift in wealth to South Florida over the past decade.

The influx of wealth from 2012 to 2022 has transformed the community, elevating property values and spurring the creation of diverse, upscale businesses. The area now boasts advanced healthcare facilities, celebrity chef restaurants and has emerged as a tech and financial nucleus. A testament to this growth is Microsoft's establishment of a 50,000 SF regional headquarters in downtown West Palm Beach, underscoring the area's economic dynamism and ability to draw key industry figures.

Driving this growth are the strategic endeavors of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, crucial in attracting business relocations and expansions, thereby enriching the local economy. The One Flagler building stands as a symbol of modern workspace innovation, offering top-tier amenities at an eyebrow-raising rate of \$100 to \$140/SF NNN.

This trend of wealth migration is not just reshaping West Palm Beach's real estate and economic framework but is also enhancing its profile as a global city. With competitive real estate prices, lower taxes compared to other global cities, and the absence of state income tax in Florida, West Palm Beach is set to further solidify its allure to the global elite.

Largest increase of ultrawealthy individuals between 2012 and 2022

1. Hangzhou, China
2. Austin, U.S.
3. Shenzhen, China
4. West Palm Beach
5. Scottsdale, U.S.
6. Bengaluru, India
7. Guangzhou, China
8. Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
9. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
10. Hyderabad, India

Source: Henley & Partners, 2023



Smitheman

Courtney Smitheman
2024 JTHS-MIAMI President
MIAMI Association of REALTORS®

Crane Reed Properties, LLC
561-301-0932
csmitheman@crane-reed.com

JTHS-Miami
2151 S Alt A1A, Suite 1100, Jupiter, FL 33477
561-746-2707
jthsmiami.com
Office hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

RESIDENCES

To advertise

Call 561-820-4300 or contact your Account Executive.

Residences is prepared by the Revenue Content Department of The Palm Beach Post. Copyright 2024. All rights reserved. All submissions and photographs are subject to editing. The opinions expressed in Residences are those of its columnists, not necessarily those of The Palm Beach Post, which neither endorses these opinions nor accepts responsibility for consequences resulting from actions taken regarding these opinions. Consult an expert before taking any action that might affect your physical or financial well-being. Advertised prices are subject to change without notice. E-mail rescovers@pbpost.com for more information.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PUBLISHER'S NOTICE



All rental and real estate advertising in The Palm Beach

Post is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Law, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin or any intention to make such preference, limitation, or discrimination."

In addition, the Palm Beach County Fair Housing Ordinance prohibits discrimination based on age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Moreover, the West Palm Beach Equal Opportunity Ordinance and the Lake Worth Civil Rights Act prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

The Palm Beach Post will not knowingly accept any advertising that is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings are available on an equal-opportunity basis.

To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 800-669-9777.

The toll-free number for the hearing-impaired is 800-927-9275.