

Time Out

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the wedding issue



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plus
A beefcake *Swan Lake*
Pussy Galore at the Hideout
Painting it black in Pilsen

CheckOut

A smart buyer's guide to style and service

In full bloom

Five florists whip up their most creative wedding wonders

By **Annie Tomlin** Photographs by **Donna Rickles**

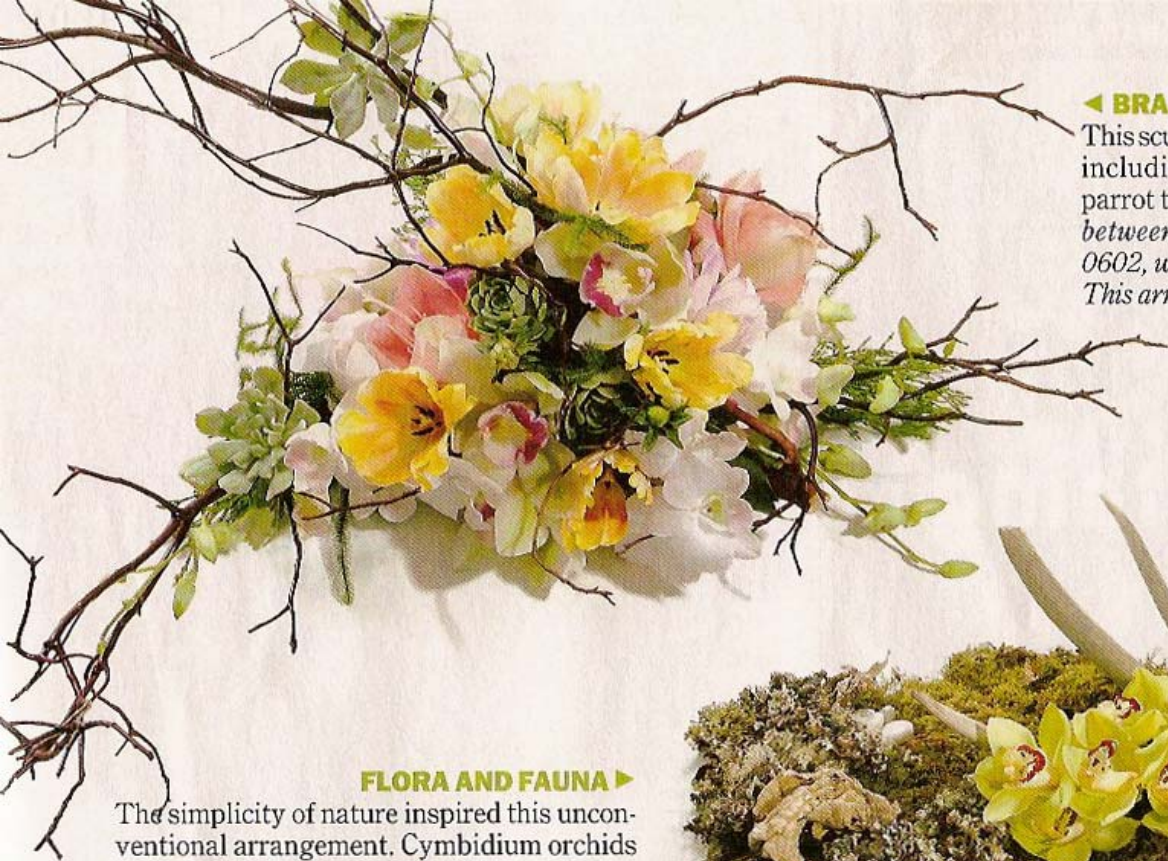
If you've ever attended a wedding reception, you've probably seen countless variations of baby's-breath-and-pastel-rose centerpieces. Inoffensive and primly pretty, these quotidian creations nonetheless lend the "something old" to an otherwise modern event.

To break away from stale stylings, we challenged five florists to create table arrangements that stray from the confines of everyday wedding styles. Working from only one word—nontraditional—as inspiration, and a modest budget (by wedding standards) of \$400 and under, they each produced a contemporary creation suitable for couples seeking out-of-the-ordinary designs. The only thing these arrangements have in common: orchids. Apparently, some floral traditions are worth keeping around.

A TOWERING ACHIEVEMENT ▶

Floating candles set off this striking four-foot tower of cattleya orchids, black-magic roses and Schwarzwaldler calla lilies. *A. Vision Chicago, 910 N Damen Ave between Iowa and Walton Sts (773-227-5700, www.avisionchicago.com). Services begin at \$75. This arrangement, \$400.*





◀ BRANCHING OUT

This sculptural creation comprises nine plants, including amaryllis, dahlias, orchids and parrot tulips. *Dilly Lily*, 742 W Fullerton Ave between Burling and Halsted Sts (773-404-0602, www.dillylily.com). Services begin at \$60. This arrangement, \$200.

FLORA AND FAUNA ▶

The simplicity of nature inspired this unconventional arrangement. Cymbidium orchids languish on a deer antler, while a two-foot bed of moss, lichen and fungus provides support. *Moss*, 7442 W Madison St, Forest Park (708-366-8780). Services begin at \$75. This arrangement, \$350.



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