

FALL/WINTER 2009

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# erin & brian

NISWA • September 20  
photography by Olive Juice Studios



## the favors

Out-of-town guests got a warm welcome from jars of Erin's grandmother's dill pickles and strawberry-rhubarb jam in monogrammed Mason jars.

## the centerpieces

To bring the outdoors in, curly willow and cattails mixed with sprays of stock. Hanging candles cast a soft glow over the tables.



## their story

It was bad timing when Erin Searcy (24 and a communications manager) met her brother's roommate's friend, Brian Larson (27 and an account manager). Erin was leaving in a few days to start a new job in Washington, DC. That night, she told one of her friends that if she didn't plan to leave, Brian would definitely be the one for her. Four months later, Erin moved back to Minnesota. She and Brian met up again for an actual first date, this time for dinner by themselves, and soon became a couple. Shortly after their one-year anniversary, Brian took Erin back to Amore Victoria—the same restaurant where they had their first date. They sat in their usual booth, and during the meal, Brian got down on one knee and proposed. —TA



**the bridesmaid bouquets**

A collar of ferns gave the already earthy bouquets of mums, bromeliads and berzillia and hypericum berries a fresh-from-the-forest look.

**the ceremony**

Shaded by towering trees, the beachside ceremony ended just as the sun was beginning to set. The natural surroundings meant that no additional dressing up, aside from the bridal canopy, was necessary.

**the ceremony programs**

A cattail logo, which also appeared on other elements, set the tone for the nature-inspired wedding. The five-panel programs, made by the bride, doubled as fans to keep guests cool during the outdoor ceremony. >>





**the cake**

Fondant cattails and grass "grew" up the sides of the cake. An oak tree trunk table was a natural accessory to the dessert.

**the details**

Monogrammed stirrers personalized the cocktail hour, while the gold printing upped the sophistication.

**the bridal bouquet**

Epitomizing earthy elegance, Erin's lush bouquet contained roses, cattails, pinecones and a wide range of greenery.

**style notes**

Inspired by their Northwoods location, the couple centered their design on nature and a green-and-brown palette. Personal touches, including a cattail motif (based on the bride's grandmother's favorite plant) and homemade treats in the welcome bags, made the 190-person event seem more intimate.



