

Aisle Style

FIVE OF THE CITY'S TOP CUSTOM FASHION DESIGNERS
SHARE MODERN BRIDAL LOOKS FOR THE BIG DAY

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It took four seamstresses to hand-embroider the 17,000 Swarovski crystals on this belted gown of silk organza and French Chantilly lace from Nicolas Felizola's atelier in Coconut Grove. For grooms, the Venezuelan attorney turned fashion designer makes menswear in Italy. This year, he is launching NF by Nicolas Felizola, a women's ready-to-wear collection.

nicolasfelizola.com



For 30 years, Pepi Bertini has been Miami's go-to guy for custom suits and shirts. Here, his tuxedo in tropical wool, grosgrain and satin is worn with a cotton voile shirt, silk satin bow tie and A. Testoni shoes. "The wider bow tie and 3/4-inch pant stripe give it an edge," he says.

pepibertini.com



Founded in the early 1990s, Rene Ruiz's eveningwear and ready-to-wear collections for men and women have grown to representation at 60 stores worldwide including his Coral Gables boutique. Here, the Cuban designer presents a fantasy of silk organza, tulle and taffeta with appliqués and Swarovski crystals. "Brides aren't just shopping [straight out of] magazines anymore. They want a custom dress," he says.

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A peekaboo skirt of silk ribbon flowers sets this stretch cotton gown embellished with Swarovski crystals apart from traditional bridal wear according to Peruvian designer Julian Chang. "It's feminine and glamorous, but you can see a bit of skin, too," he says from his boutique and studio on Biscayne Boulevard.

julianchang.com



This gown from Mayda Cisneros in Coral Gables has the usual bridal components such as silk taffeta, organza and tulle. But its tarnished beading makes it thoroughly modern and cool according to the Cuban designer who got her start in the 1980s in New York. "We aren't for the cookie-cutter bride," she says, sketching and researching each personal vision. "Every dress is totally different."

maydacisneros.com