



PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATE MCELWEE PHOTOGRAPHY/KATEMCELWEEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM
BY CHERYL CARUOLO

bailey and joe o'dea 6.12.10 providence, rhode island

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When Bailey Stoler and Joe O'Dea were deciding where to hold their June 2010 wedding, months of research left them disappointed. With Joe from Vermont, Bailey from Massachusetts, and guests arriving from as far as California, the couple wanted a convenient - but meaningful - location. "I lived in Rhode Island for many years," Bailey explains. "As I was planning, I kept feeling nostalgic and decided to include that sentiment in the wedding theme." A business associate of Bailey's father is a member at the Hope Club in Providence (established in 1875), and offered to sponsor the wedding. "Its feel of old world luxury was perfect," she says.

The wedding moved seamlessly from cocktails on the terrace to dinner in the ballroom to dancing in the dining room, and finally dessert in the foyer. "Some venues I looked at had a 'wedding factory' feel, but the Hope Club hosts very few weddings per year," says Bailey. Her family and her bridal party stayed in the Victorian club's upstairs suites, but all hotels were within walking distance. "The [First Unitarian] Church was across the street from the reception. As soon as people arrived in Providence, they parked their cars and didn't get in them again until they left."

Because Providence isn't typically thought of as a vacation destination, Bailey says guests were excited to discover the rich culture and history of the smallest U.S. state. Boston-based photographer, Kate McElwee, took advantage of the unexpected spot. "The weather was gray that day,"



Kate recalls. "I looked for places with overhangs and buildings with color." She says that the architecture around Brown University, including a house with a red door and a yellow house with a purple door, created ideal backdrops. Keri Lussier of Floral Express in Cranston, RI, added a stroke of color too. "Bailey's bouquet was a blend of white ranunculus and peonies accented by cobalt blue delphinium."

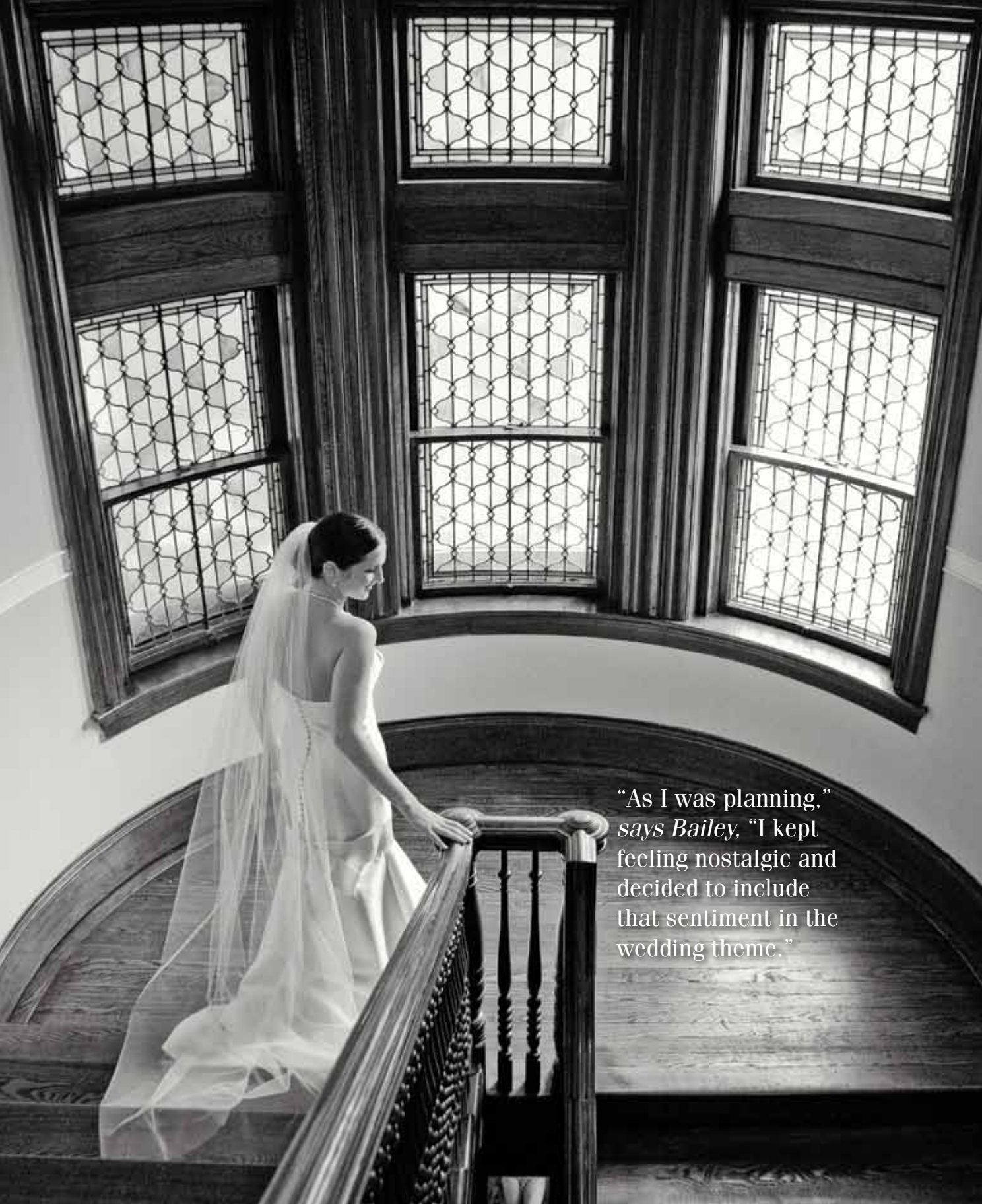
A photo of the bride under the covered archway, against the black and white tile at the Providence Courthouse, stands out in Kate's mind. "The light was great and Bailey's expression was so playful."

To personalize the celebration, Bailey and Joe asked guests to list song requests on their response cards. "Everyone danced - the groom did the worm, the bride did a split, and the best men did flips," Bailey laughs.

When asked to describe their Providence destination wedding in one word she joyously says, "elegant."



The beautiful architecture and natural history of the "creative capital" provided photographer Kate McElwee with an optimal backdrop.



The Hope Club, a private, social club in the city, provided the feeling of “old world luxury” the couple was after.

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CEREMONY LOCATION: FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE. RECEPTION VENUE, CATERING & LINEN RENTAL: HOPE CLUB. FLORIST: KERI LUSSIER OF FLORAL EXPRESS. CAKE/DESSERT: DESSERT WORKS. BRIDAL GOWN: AMSALE BLUE LABEL THROUGH VOWS. BRIDAL ACCESSORIES: SHOES BY BORN, CUSTOM VEIL THROUGH ALTERATIONS BY ANAHIT. BRIDESMAID DRESSES: MAGGIE LONDON THROUGH NORDSTROM. GROOM'S ATTIRE: CALVIN KLEIN THROUGH BLOOMINGDALE'S. GROOMSMEN ATTIRE: CLASSIC TUXEDO. HAIR: HAIRSPRAY SALON. MAKEUP: AUNT. WEDDING BANDS: THE JEWEL BOX. INVITATIONS & PAPER PRODUCTS: HOMEMADE. FAVORS: CHARITY DONATION. RECEPTION ENTERTAINMENT: GEORGE CONFOEY OF CEDJ'S. OFFICIANT: REVEREND JAMES FORD. VIDEOGRAPHER: ROCCO MICHALUK. REHEARSAL DINNER: HEMENWAY'S.

Bailey and Joe took advantage of all the Hope Club had to offer: cocktails on the terrace, dinner in the ballroom, dancing in the dining room and finally, dessert in the foyer.