

Photography by
HONG PHOTOGRAPHY
AND CINEMA INC.

A Modern, Graphic
Wedding Designed
By The Bride



Kiarash wore
Ermenegildo Zegna
formalwear from
HARRY ROSEN with a
Rolex watch, a Louis
Vuitton tie, a Canali
handkerchief, and
Versace cufflinks.

It all came down to a chance encounter for Sahar Sarband and Kiarash Kalhor. Despite having had mutual friends for years, they first met at a friend's gathering in January 2008. After the two locked eyes from across the room, they immediately started asking around about the other, and by the end of the night, Kiarash asked for Sahar's number. Before she had time to respond, Kiarash said he wouldn't take no for an answer. He called her later that night, they talked for hours, and the rest is history.

Nearly seven years later, Sahar was on her way to spend Christmas Eve with Kiarash. She arrived early and let herself in while Kiarash was in the other room. As she entered the house, she instantly spotted several presents under the tree with her name on them. "Having no idea what was coming, I ran to the tree and yelled to him that I was opening presents," remembers Sahar. "He yelled at me to wait, and then he ran in and tried to get me to stop." Insistent on ripping into her gifts, Sahar opened a gorgeous pair of boots, and as she went to try them on she found a small box with a stunning oval ring inside. At that moment, everything clicked. When she looked up, she found Kiarash down on one knee in front of her. He then asked if she would be his valentine forever. Once the shock and awe wore off, Sahar joyfully replied, "yes!" "It turned out that Kiarash was in the process of setting up a camera and had a speech ready that I completely ruined," she says. "But it was so imperfectly perfect, I wouldn't have it any other way."

The wedding day took place on August 20, 2016 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The bride's profession as a wedding planner at MODERN MINT EVENTS INC. lent itself naturally to the occasion, and she planned the entire day herself. In fact, the bride admitted that she loved being on the other side of the planning process for once, sharing. "I spend so much time on a daily basis trying to put myself in my bride's shoes, and I was finally able to see it all from their perspective."

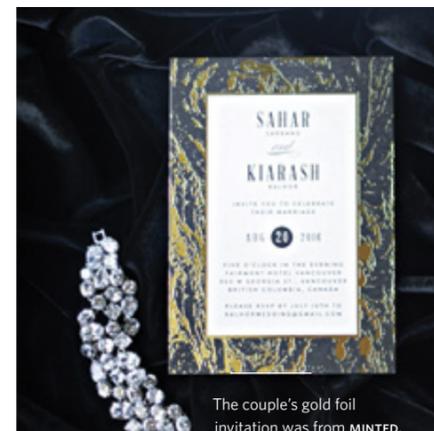


Sahar wore a custom-made Hayley Paige ball gown purchased from BLUSH BRIDAL that combined the strapless beaded top and full tulle skirt of two different dresses. The bride accessorized her custom gown with a cathedral length veil, Swarovski bracelet, and stud earrings, all from Blush Bridal.

Hair styling was provided by FAYE SMITH MAKEUP AND HAIR, while makeup application services were provided by BEAUTY BY MINA.

SAHAR & KIARASH

DUSHAN FLOWERS created a gorgeous white bouquet that incorporated 20 peonies imported from Alaska, as well as ranunculus and garden roses.



The couple's gold foil invitation was from MINTED.

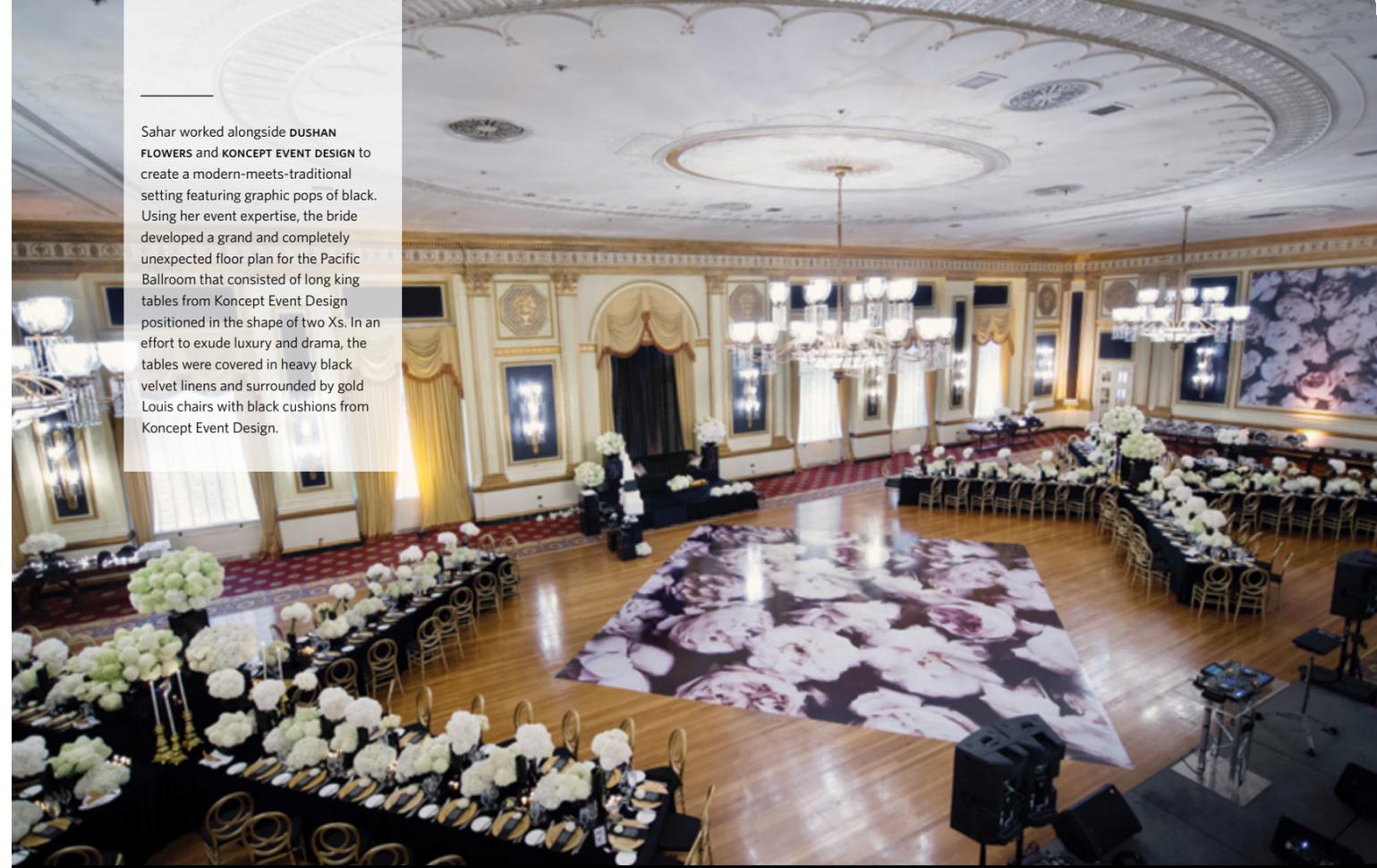




CEREMONY NOTES

The couple were wed in the Vancouver Island Room at the **FAIRMONT HOTEL VANCOUVER** where they exchanged personalized vows in a ceremony that perfectly combined their Western and Persian backgrounds. Sahar's dream of getting married in front of a sofreh aghd came true. However, she worked closely with the officiant, Shawn Miller of **YOUNG HIP & MARRIED**, to forgo the traditional Farsi reading in exchange for an English one. "To create the perfect ceremony, I worked closely with Shawn who was kind enough to customize everything and perform a traditional Persian aghd in English along with beautiful readings that truly represented us. He even learned and included some Farsi phrases that made for a special, one-of-a-kind day," recalls the bride. **KONCEPT EVENT**

DESIGN brought Sahar's ceremony to life, lining the altar with Louis candlesticks, gold votive holders, and two customized black mirrors. **PAISLEY EVENTS INC.** helped to create the sofreh aghd, filling lavish gold vessels with apples, nuts, eggs, flatbread, and coins, all of which are traditional symbols of wealth, prosperity, happiness, and health. Modern white floral arrangements of hydrangea and roses sat atop tall black pillars that framed the altar, while two black runners topped with more white hydrangea draped onto the floor. Black panels were installed on the wall behind the sofreh aghd for added drama, while the bride walked down a custom-made black aisle runner from Koncept Event Design. Meanwhile, gold Grace chairs with black cushions lined the aisle, providing a touch of glamour.



Sahar worked alongside **DUSHAN FLOWERS** and **KONCEPT EVENT DESIGN** to create a modern-meets-traditional setting featuring graphic pops of black. Using her event expertise, the bride developed a grand and completely unexpected floor plan for the Pacific Ballroom that consisted of long king tables from Koncept Event Design positioned in the shape of two Xs. In an effort to exude luxury and drama, the tables were covered in heavy black velvet linens and surrounded by gold Louis chairs with black cushions from Koncept Event Design.

"I was looking to do a very bold, contrast-filled, modern design in a traditional, grand setting. The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver has always been my favourite venue in Vancouver. The gold moulding, high ceilings, and grand chandeliers are truly magical on their own but I also love modern and contemporary design. My mission was to bring this storybook venue into the 21st century and pair the design elements with modern clean lines, black accents, and sharp, bold details that have never been done in this setting." -SAHAR

Wedding bands were custom-made at **MICHAEL HILL JEWELLERS**.



The graphic peony print seen on the dance floor and wall mural were based on a Flickr photograph Sahar sourced online. The photograph was then edited by Koncept Event Design to create a customized dance floor and wall mural, which they then produced and installed.

Koncept Event Design also provided the black panelling for the walls, as well as the black stands and runners that the floral arrangements sat atop.



Gold Louis chairs, long king tables, gold chargers, satin napkins, and black velvet linens from **KONCEPT EVENT DESIGN**.



AVANT GARDE CAKE

The couple's avant-garde 6-ft tall wedding cake was designed by **CAKE BY NICOLE** and featured six asymmetrically placed square-shaped tiers with cascading white sugar flowers. The statement cake was positioned on a black-rimmed white cake stand which sat atop a rectangular black stand from **KONCEPT EVENT DESIGN**. On either side of the modern cake were two black mini cakes, also by **Cake by Nicole**, that featured hand-painted peonies in the same floral motif as the dance floor and mural.

Despite the grandeur of the three cakes, Sahar and Kiarash's luxe affair had a variety of other desserts. These included a black and white macaron tower with gold accents from **Cake by Nicole**, as well as two dessert buffets prepared by the **FAIRMONT HOTEL VANCOUVER** that included creme brûlée, assorted gourmet chocolates, and other confections.

DJ **Ali Fard**, alongside a live percussionist and an electronic violinist, provided their services throughout the reception. Cinematography was provided by **LIFE STUDIOS INC.**

MAKING MEMORIES WITH STATIONERY designed the day-of stationery which included thank you cards at each place setting.



PORTRAIT SESSION

For the couple's portrait session, which took place on a different day, Sahar wore a modern, fit and flare gown with a tulle train designed by Vera Wang and purchased at **BLUSH BRIDAL**. In addition to her gown, Sahar wore black and gold Christian Louboutin heels, a Swarovski bracelet from Blush Bridal, and crystal earrings given to her by her sister, who purchased them from a local designer in Chicago.

Kiarash wore his Ermenegildo Zegna formalwear from **HARRY ROSEN** paired with a blue tie and handkerchief, both designed by Louis Vuitton.



KONCEPT EVENT DESIGN provided the black velvet draping that served as the backdrop for the portrait session. The white Louis chaise lounge was provided by **LOUNGEWORKS FURNITURE RENTAL AND DECOR**.

END NOTES

For their honeymoon, Sahar and Kiarash embarked on a 14-day trip to scenic Bali, where they explored historic temples and took in Indonesian culture. The couple began their vacation soaking up the sun from their private villa at the **FAIRMONT SANUR BEACH BALI**, before moving to the **HANGING GARDENS OF BALI**. The couple resides in Vancouver where Sahar is the CEO of **MODERN MINT EVENTS INC.** and Kiarash is an entrepreneur.

DUSHAN FLOWERS created a dramatic floral arrangement that surrounded the white Louis chaise lounge, consisting of white tulips, hydrangea, and roses, interspersed with greenery.

The second bouquet, created for the portrait session, featured black and white tulips, white ranunculus, white anemones, and a handle wrapped in black velvet.



ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER
Hong Photography and Cinema Inc.

Ellen Ho is an international photographer who runs a top boutique-style-photography studio based in Vancouver, BC, Canada. With a background in art and fashion, Ellen incorporates her innate sense of design in her photography and gives something cosmopolitan, chic, and unique to her photos. A refined and polished boutique elegance has become her signature style. And while seeking to embody the very essence of haute couture and luxury, she also captures a person's unique personality and inner beauty.

ELLENHO.COM | 778.228.6256

“Both of my bridal bouquets were truly lavish, unlike any I’ve ever seen! Dushan Flowers went completely above the call of duty to create something spectacular for me.”

—SAHAR