

YURIKO & RITESH

Photography by
PURPLE TREE PHOTOGRAPHY



To the sangeet, Ritesh wore an orange and purple outfit from CTC WEST. Yuriko wore a red and white Japanese kimono, which had been passed down to her by her aunt.

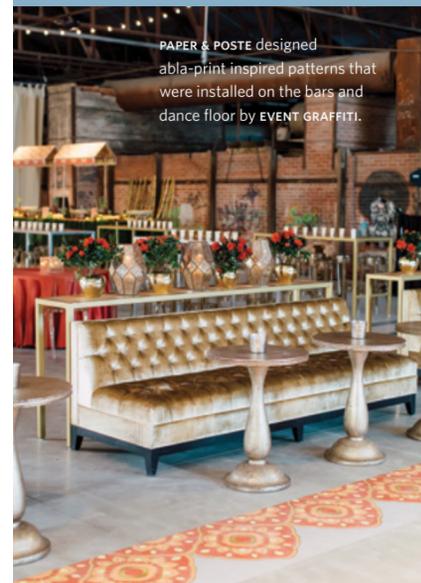


CAFE BELONG supplied a roast and grill station, SABAI SABAI served Thai food, and CHASKA provided Indian street food. Bamboo plates and cutlery provided by CHAIR-MAN MILLS.



A sake tasting bar by KAISEKI YU-ZEN HASHIMOTO was also set up.

Guests enjoyed a live performance from THE DHOL CIRCLE.



PAPER & POSTE designed abla-print inspired patterns that were installed on the bars and dance floor by EVENT GRAFFITI.



Guests also enjoyed a live performance from a Japanese drummer and were treated to an indoor fireworks display by FIREDOG CREATIVE.

A Multicultural Celebration of Love

Yuriko Cowper-Smith and Ritesh Acharya met at a mutual friend's party in the fall of 2011. Though they didn't have much in common, they decided to go on a date, which ended with the two ordering nachos from **SNEAKY DEE'S** and Yuriko slipping her number into Ritesh's phone. Since their first date, the pair has survived long-distance dating, PhD woes, and countless jobs—it seems they are truly meant to be! Four years later, Yuriko and Ritesh were planning an unforgettable vacation to Argentina and Chile. Yuriko had briefly entertained the idea that Ritesh might ask her to marry him while on their trip, but of course, she didn't know for sure. To her surprise, Ritesh popped the question two weeks before their planned getaway. The intimate proposal happened in their condo over an extravagant brunch that Ritesh had prepared. "I could tell it was prepared with blood, sweat, and tears. To this day, he still boasts a scar on his left hand," recalls Yuriko. Despite being in her pajamas, it's a memory she will never forget.

The couple celebrated their wedding with a multi-day affair in Toronto, Ontario over the weekend of July 14-16, 2017. Melissa Haggerty and Gabi Armenia of **SPECTACULARSPECTACULAR** provided full event planning services for all of the events.

As per Indian tradition, a sangeet party, or music party, was held the night before the wedding at **EVERGREEN BRICK WORKS**. The raw urban space was transformed by the collaborative design direction of **PARAS EVENTS INC.** and **SpectacularSpectacular**. Paras Events Inc. provided jewel-toned floral designs and antique mercury glass lanterns. Gold velvet couches were mixed with gold tables and translucent amber stools and chairs from **CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE RENTALS INC.**



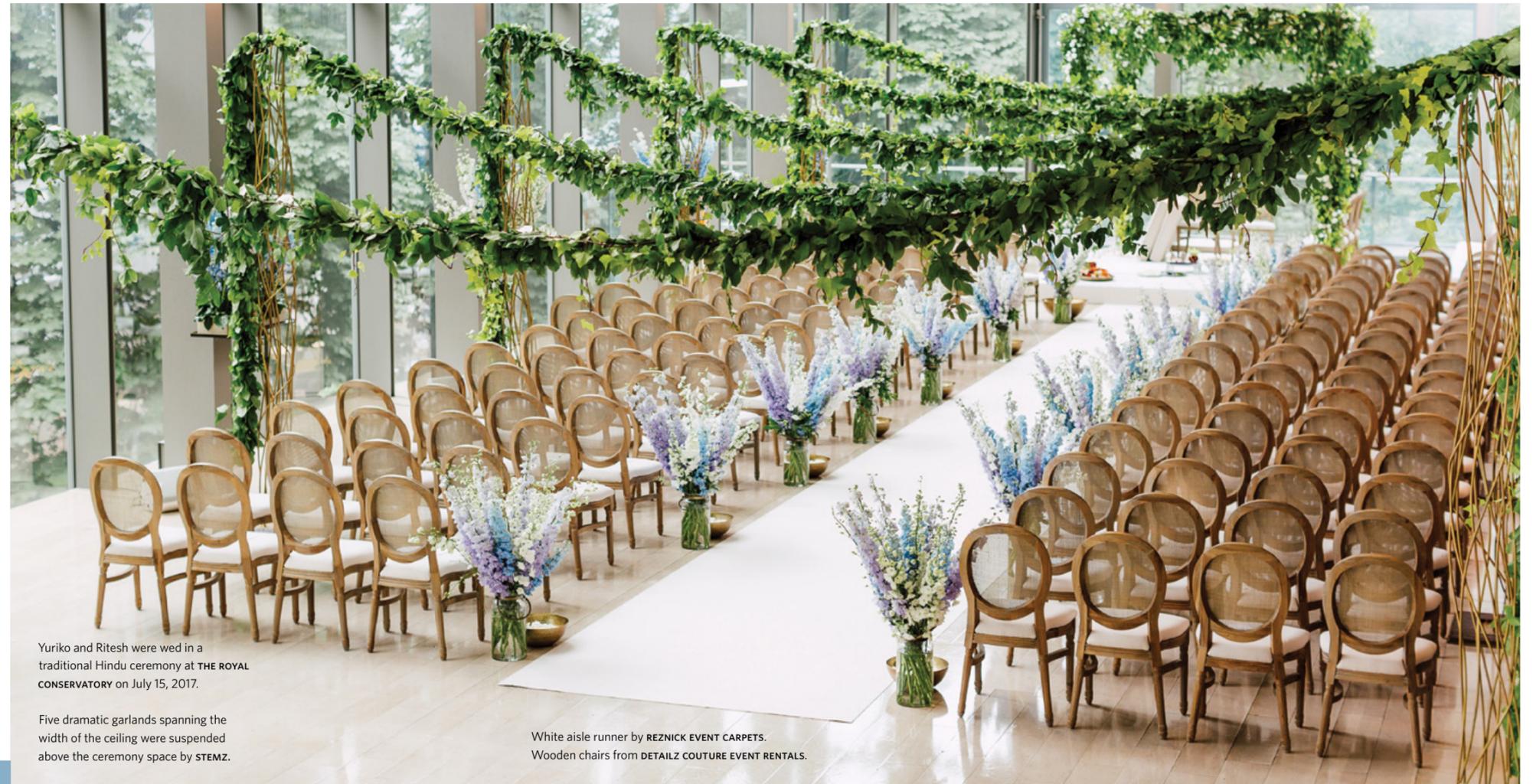
Crimson linen from AROUND THE TABLE.

A swag bag station, styled by Paras Events Inc., invited guests to choose from a variety of goodies to take home with them, ranging from origami kits and fans to henna cookies.



Yuriko, alongside her former dance troupe, Sakura Kai, performed a traditional Japanese dance for sangeet party guests.





Yuriko and Ritesh were wed in a traditional Hindu ceremony at THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY on July 15, 2017.

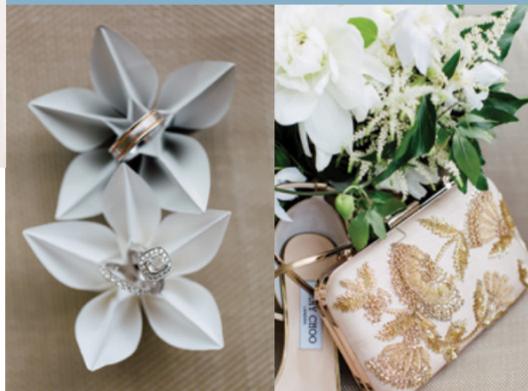
Five dramatic garlands spanning the width of the ceiling were suspended above the ceremony space by STEMZ.

White aisle runner by REZNICK EVENT CARPETS. Wooden chairs from DETAILZ COUTURE EVENT RENTALS.

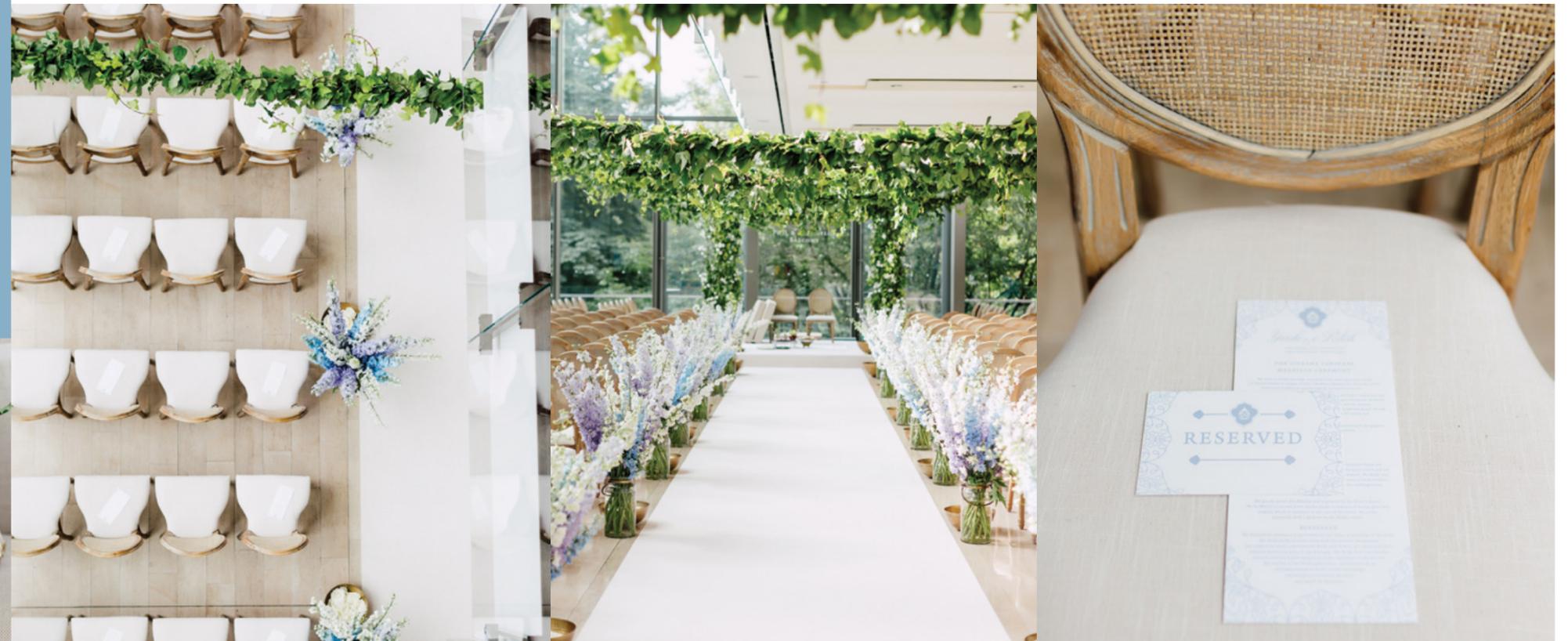


PAPER & POSTE designed the couple's one-of-a-kind stationery. Wishing for their invitation suite to be a reflection of themselves, the elegant white card stock was accented with the Suzuki family crest, a cherry blossom, from Yuriko's Japanese side, and a motif of Ganesha, a Hindu deity, representing Ritesh's Indian background. For an extra degree of personalization, Yuriko's friend Sara Froese from ALL SORTS PRESS printed them on her letterpress.

Hair styling and makeup application services were provided by Kanika Bhargava.



Engagement and wedding rings were from MARK LASH.





Ritesh arrived at the ceremony in a rickshaw provided by **DREAM PARTY DECOR** and decorated by **STEMZ**.



Stemz provided the floral, including Yuriko's bouquet.

Sahil Khan played the shehnai, a musical instrument similar to the oboe, as the bride and her parents made their way to the altar. The dreamy aisle ultimately led to a traditional mandap that was covered in green vines to complement the garlands hanging overhead, and highlighted by white lisianthus dispersed throughout.



The garlands were a mixture of many different vines but the most unique (and time-sensitive!) was the passion vine, a plant that produces a stunning purple flower but blooms for only one day. Talk about perfect timing!



The bridesmaids wore blue and gold saris.

In lieu of a typical cocktail reception, the couple's ceremony setup at **THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY** was repurposed to make room for a lunch buffet. Guests enjoyed champagne while **GUJARATI FOODS** prepared a variety of vegetarian dishes for guests, including gajar ka halwa, mango lassi, kala channa, and corn paneer.



For the ceremony, Yuriko wore a pale yellow lengha from Indian designer Anita Dongre. She paired this gown with gold Jimmy Choo shoes from **NORDSTROM** and a gold necklace and earrings with red and green semi-precious stones from **PERNIA'S POP-UP SHOP**.

Ritesh wore a traditional Indian ensemble from **CTC WEST**, which he paired with a rose gold Rolex watch and loafers purchased from **TO BOOT NEW YORK**.



After lunch, guests made their way to the **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL TORONTO** for the dinner reception. As they entered the Aria Ballroom, a showstopping escort card wall greeted guests. No ordinary seating chart, the fixture consisted of fresh foliage intermixed with faux leaves designed and printed by **PAPER & POSTE** to include guest names and table assignments. In addition, nearly 200 origami flowers, hand-made by Osamu from the **ORIGAMI SOCIETY OF TORONTO**, had been affixed to the wall. This unique installation was Yuriko's favourite design detail of the wedding, "It was an idea we cooked up the week prior to the wedding and it was executed flawlessly."



Blue satin linens and beige napkins from **AROUND THE TABLE**. Gold-framed chairs from **CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE RENTALS INC.** Gold-rimmed glassware, cutlery, and charger plates from **CHAIR-MAN MILLS**.

SPECTACULARSPECTACULAR and **STEMZ** collaborated on the design of the reception. Greenery was again the main feature, but vibrant floral ranging from blue delphinium and purple clematises to orange dahlias and begonias provided bright pops of colour. Abiding by the couple's request, no two tablescapes were the same.



For the reception, Yuriko changed into an embellished white gown from **SAMANT CHAUHAN**, accented with gold, red, and green embroidery. Ritesh wore black formalwear from **SUITSUPPLY**, along with tuxedo shoes, a bow tie, and a pocket square from **Suitsupply**.

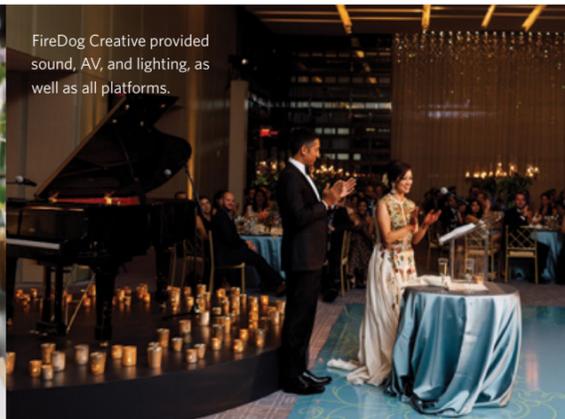
A gelato cart from **HOTEL GELATO** was rolled out as a late-night treat for guests.



The newlyweds sat at their own colourful sweetheart table in front of a whimsical floral trellis covered in climbing clematis, created by **STEMZ**. It was intended to mimic the escort card wall, the big difference being that fresh flowers were used as opposed to origami ones.



Paper & Poste provided all day-of stationery, including table numbers, menus, and bar signage.



FireDog Creative provided sound, AV, and lighting, as well as all platforms.

END NOTES

Despite the luxe, vibrant tablescapes, all eyes were on the round black stage created by **FIREDOG CREATIVE**. The stage featured a grand piano, where renowned pianist **John Roby** performed through dinner. "The stage was covered in dozens upon dozens of candles and was the prettiest backdrop for all the speeches," notes event planner and designer **Melissa Haggerty**.

The **FOUR SEASONS HOTEL TORONTO** prepared a plated dinner for guests, in addition to a lavish dessert table featuring macarons, gajar ka halwa parfaits, boondi laddoo tarts with rosewater and saffron cream, chia panna cotta, cashew caramel rice pudding, pepper spiced chocolate mousse cake, pistachio brown butter cake, and a milk chocolate chai ganache torte. **CORINNE MCDONALD FILMS** captured all of the festivities, including the party that unfolded on the dance floor courtesy of DJ Rav. The floor decal was designed by **PAPER & POSTE** and installed by **DANCE FLOOR DÉCOR**.

After their extravagant three-day celebration, the newlyweds settled back into daily life in Toronto, where Yuriko is a PhD student in Political Science and Ritesh is a Senior Director of Scientific Affairs.



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