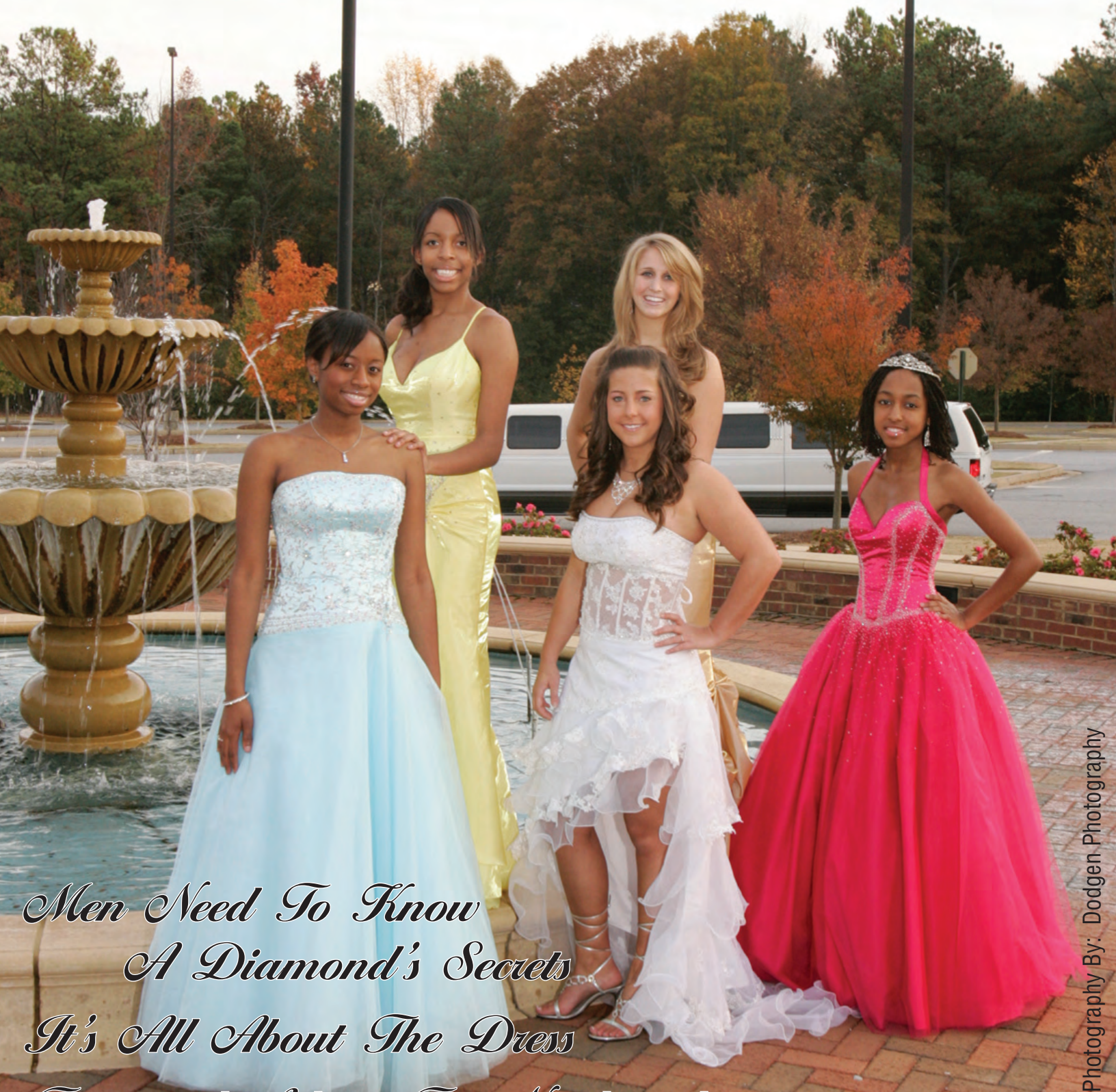


A Southern Affair

Your Bridal Guide, Party and Special Event Planner



*Men Need To Know
A Diamond's Secrets
It's All About The Dress
Financial Advice For Newlyweds*

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FREE

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Directions for

D • E • C • O • R • A • T • I • O • N • G

Men, from the beginning of time, loathe asking for directions and some are surely still lost. Whereas, a woman will diligently read directions from safety warnings to warranty terms. And when it comes to a couple's first decorating project together, these two anomalies really show. While he may think that Astroturf in the den would be awesome, you might want a classy art deco style and be willing to do the research achieve it. So bottle up his enthusiasm and lead him in the right direction for a change with these helpful tips:

- Do allow both parties an equal amount of space to showcase their prized possessions. Too often the men get shoved out to the garage or into the basement with their belongings. Take a look at what each of you has to offer and find a happy medium by using his football paraphernalia in the game room and your quilt collection in the guest room.

- Do not feel like your home has to mirror the bargain priced nine piece living room set on the cover of the latest Rooms To Go flyer. Use your hand-me-downs and heirloom pieces in conjunction with a few newer additions in order to create your own style. Memories are often attached to furnishings that have traveled with us over the years and their history is priceless.

- Do reupholster or slipcover older items to give them a more updated look. By giving them a fabric face lift, you can create a more cohesive space and tie furnishings together with something as simple as coordinating pillows or

placemats. However, please consider the cost of materials involved as purchasing a newer item can sometimes be the more frugal alternative.

- Do not be afraid of utilizing a piece for something other than its intended use. A small dresser can make the perfect linen chest in a closet or a bookcase can be the ideal place to keep folded sweaters within reach. Be resourceful and innovative with your existing pieces instead of tossing them to the curb.

- Do keep similar patterns, textures, colors, woods, and sizes in mind when decorating a room. Too much variety will look chaotic and mismatched. Each room should feel fluid and welcoming instead of stressful and cluttered. By matching your window treatment to a few throw pillows or your armchair next to the bed with the bed skirt, you can create a uniform theme.

By using both of your hand-me-downs and heirlooms, it is possible to create a comfortable, yet eclectic home. After all, your home should reflect who you are as



individuals and as a couple. By taking the time to listen to his suggestions and reach within yourself for creativity, the two of you should surely be able to tackle the task at hand. With a little bit of effort, both sides can arrive at the same destination in style!

By Parker Beck, CID
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