

Diving Head *FIRST*



This couple brought **their love of the ocean** to the forefront of their wedding with **unique, playful decor** and a **showstopping setting**.

DAN FLOBERG HAS a sentimental side, especially when it comes to Dana Waud. After bringing her to the tree he had purchased at Chicago Botanic Garden in memory of her grandparents, he proposed to her with her maternal grandmother's wedding ring—an antique cushion-cut solitaire stunner. Five and a half whirlwind months later, the couple walked down the aisle at Shedd Aquarium.

Dana's family has been involved with Shedd Aquarium for years—Dana herself is on the Auxiliary Board—making it the perfect location for the wedding. A longtime family friend of the Flobergs performed the ceremony, and Dan's uncle brought tears to guests' eyes with a reading from Dr. Seuss' *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* The young flower girls charmed in mermaid costumes, but Dana was the true standout in an Ines Di Santo gown from Ultimate Bride, Tiffany & Co. earrings and a gorgeous blue clutch handbeaded by her mother.

The pair's love of the Wes Anderson movie *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* kept the reception's theme playful, with coral and navy accents, and glimpses of fish and deep-sea divers. The vanilla-bean cake with salted-caramel filling from Elysia Root Cakes was a big hit, best enjoyed around the large-reef fish tank. Guests also went home with a little something sweet to end the sweet night: homemade honey from the mother of the bride's beehives. Even the couple's honeymoon fit the theme: They jetted off to the Maldives for 10 days of scuba diving, exploring and celebrating their brand-new life together. ■



Clockwise from top: The Abbott Oceanarium was a gorgeous backdrop to the ceremony; the decor brought the wonders of the natural world indoors with unique blooms like light-pink king protea; the detailed invitation suite by RedBliss Design played into the aquatic theme by featuring a custom crest as well as fish, seahorses and a deep-sea diver; towering centerpieces by HMR Designs evoked a coral reef; the couple's four-tier cake featured their custom crest. Opposite page: The Lake Michigan views from Shedd Aquarium were perfect for Dan and Dana's day.

The List

- Venue [Shedd Aquarium, SheddAquarium.org](http://SheddAquarium.org)
- Wedding Planner [Hope Weis, HopeWeisConsulting.com](http://HopeWeis.com)
- Bride's Gown [Ines Di Santo, Ultimate Bride, ultimatebride.com](http://InesDiSanto.com)
- Bride's Shoes [Jimmy Choo, Nordstrom, nordstrom.com](http://JimmyChoo.com)
- Bride's Veil [Ultimate Bride, ultimatebride.com](http://UltimateBride.com)
- Bride's Hair & Makeup Hair: [Renee Feldman, Renee Feldman Salon, reneefeldmansalon.com](http://ReneeFeldmanSalon.com); makeup: [Stella Mikhail, Stellair Beauty, stellairbeauty.com](http://StellaMikhail.com)
- Groom's Tux [Nicholas Joseph, customsuitsyou.com](http://NicholasJoseph.com)
- Rings Hers: [Lise Bennett, Unicorn Designs, unicorndesignsllc.com](http://LiseBennett.com); His: [Benchmark, C.D.Peacock, cdpeacock.com](http://Benchmark.com)
- Florals Decor: [John Hensel, HMR Designs, hmrdesigns.com](http://JohnHensel.com); bouquets: [Dana Strothman, Designs by Jody, designsbyjodyinc.com](http://DanaStrothman.com)
- Invitations [RedBliss Design, redbliss.com](http://RedBlissDesign.com)
- Rentals [HMR Designs, hmrdesigns.com](http://HMRDesigns.com)
- Linens [BBJ Linen, bbjlinen.com](http://BBJLinen.com)
- Entertainment [Cagen Music, cagenmusic.com](http://CagenMusic.com)