



A FAMILY AFFAIR

BY KIM PEIFFER

WHEN MICHAEL MCGRATH ASKED Melissa Gale to be his wife, the foundation for their unconventional romance was complete. The couple connected for the first time over the phone: Mike, general manager of McGrath Lexus, was helping Melissa, schedule an appointment to have her brakes fixed. The two clicked and conversation continued. They realized they were both going to be featured in the same “singles” article in a local magazine. Mike’s proposal had a unique twist: His son Matthew, then 11 years old, accompanied the couple to dinner that evening and helped his dad pop the big question. “Mike wanted him to be a part of it so we all started out on the right foot,” says Melissa. The bubbly bride carried a bouquet of long-stemmed calla lilies decorated with a vintage brooch down the aisle. From their chocolate-flavored, green fondant wedding cake to their out-of-the-box botanicals, the Gold Coast room at the Drake was transformed into a haven of style

and design. Tables overflowed with palm branches, Casablanca lilies and orchids. Each arrangement was displayed in a mirrored black ceramic vase with dramatic branch displays that were carried over onto the chairs. The head table was a custom portico covered in gold shells, feathers and more flowers.

CEREMONY Fourth Presbyterian Church
 RECEPTION The Drake Hotel
 WEDDING PLANNER Frank J. Andonoplas, Frank Event Design
 CATERER The Drake Hotel
 CAKE Marked for Dessert
 PROGRAMS/GUEST GIFTS Caroline Chandler of Dirtroad Sisters
 FLORAL DESIGNER Botanicals, Inc.
 LINENS BBJ
 INVITATIONS Elite
 BRIDAL GOWN Nicole Miller
 TUXEDOS Formally Modern Tuxedo
 ENGAGEMENT RING Ehrloom’s Fine Jewelry Designs
 WEDDING BANDS Ehrloom’s Fine Jewelry Designs(hers), Cartier (his)
 BRIDESMAID ATTIRE Elda De La Rosa