

# SHOWER POWER

*The Retro Bouquet That's Back!*



PARAGON FLORAL DESIGN



FROM THE GROUND UP



BLOOMINGHAUS

Just like the seasons, flower trends often come back around. Rosie, from the Scottish wedding flower and prop hire company Lavender and Rose, talks us through the shower bouquet's big come-back

There will be more than a few shower bouquets hiding in old family wedding photos (and you'd be forgiven for having less than complimentary thoughts about them), but these classic arrangements refuse to stay in the past.

You might think you know the type – long, trailing and probably showcasing white lilies – but despite the retro reputation these bouquets have acquired, they're quickly coming back into fashion. And there's a whole host of reasons why.

One of the things at the forefront of a bride's mind during the run-up to their nuptials is the need to ensure they're able to capture the magic of their wedding in photographs and videos, to make their memories last a lifetime. Some bouquets, especially modern asymmetric styles, showcase flowers from one angle only

– overhead. This can sometimes mean blooms are slightly overlooked in snaps, with more stem than stamen on show.

With their domed, dropped front and curved top and sides, shower bouquets are built to look beautiful from all angles. Additionally, with all the wire 'stems' formed into a handle at the back, there's no confusion about where the front of your bouquet is, making sure your flowers stay front and centre for every photograph.

The process of making a shower bouquet isn't a straightforward one. Each bloom or piece of greenery is cut underneath the flower head or tip of foliage and fragile stems are taped to strengthen them. Next up, a piece of wire is threaded into the cut ends of each flower or piece of foliage before they begin to build the shape.





CAMPBELL'S FLOWERS



ELIZA SIKORSKA FOTOGRAFIA

If the gym was the last thing on your mind in the run up to your wedding, there's even more good news. Because the majority of the stems have been removed from the arrangement, this showered style is as light as you like when it comes to bridal bouquets, which also, coincidentally, makes them easier to toss over your head at your waiting friends and family if the tradition appeals to you.

Bringing these bouquets into the 21st-century are an army of creative British florists, tweaking and transforming a classic shape into something bold and undeniably beautiful.

To make sure your bouquet is more pretty than passé, steer clear of the elements that make these arrangements look dated, like sparse greenery or Oriental white lilies.

One way to make these bouquets beautiful is to mix old and new techniques. This could be achieved with a semi-wired finish for a softer overall look. The 'new' comes in the form of additional textured, wild-looking flowers and foliage, while the 'old' is the semi-wired structure. Leaving some flowers and foliage loose creates beautiful, organic movement and more subtle lines, while the base structure provides support and the perfect canvas to build upon.

Pantone's choice of Greenery for 2017's Colour of the Year started a trend that permeated through to more than simply paint samples and is still thriving now. Another way to bring your bouquet bang up to date is to leave the flowers in the field and plump for varying shades of green instead. You can get amazingly varied leaves, berries and seed pods in



DETAILS

CAROLINE CLEMENTS FLOWERS  
COURTNEY LOUISE PHOTOGRAPHY

## Flowers Fit For Royalty

If you need any more persuasion that this style is for you, then why not take your lead from the British royal family? Both Princess Diana and Kate plumped for this classic style, choosing simple white blooms and subtle greenery. While Diana's was definitely of its time, Kate brought hers up to date by keeping it compact.

beautiful shades of green that can produce a fabulous, feathery bouquet.

If it's the size that puts you off considering a shower bouquet, then just don't play to convention! Small shower bouquets can look incredibly chic, and help show off more delicate flowers. Tiny British blooms like Lily of The Valley can be given real space to shine in a smaller arrangement, and for bonus points they symbolise marital happiness too! 