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## break down your planning

If you try to think about everything you need to do in the next 10 to 12 months, you'll either become completely overwhelmed or you'll find yourself considering the type of favors you want in the third month, when you really should wait until later. The biggest piece of advice I give my clients is to concentrate only on the tasks that need to be completed in two to three months at a time.

## incorporate your guests

At one wedding we displayed photos of the bride and the groom with their family and friends who were guests. The photos were from a variety of scenarios at different stages in the bride's and groom's lives, and next to each one, the couple added a brief, funny caption. It created this wonderful atmosphere where everyone was sharing a story, a memory or just laughing and enjoying the time together.

## go with the flow

Even when you think you've arranged for every little detail, not everything always goes as planned. If something needs to be changed owing to some unforeseen circumstance, remember that nobody except for you knows what was originally supposed to happen. So act like it was always meant to be that "new" way and no one will be the wiser.

## find the common denominators

When trying to determine your wedding vision, go through magazines or websites and collect images of any ideas, colors and details that stand out to you. Then divide them into pictures you like vs. pictures you absolutely love. You may not be able to define what you like in words, but when you go through the pictures you love you'll start to see common elements. Let those common bonds guide your style.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Left: Pastel peonies make for a soft and romantic bouquet; mix centerpieces of different heights and shapes to add texture to tables; add a whimsical touch to an outdoor ceremony by using colorful ribbons to create an altar; get creative by having several smaller cakes and unexpected cake toppers.

