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# DANIE & DANIIL

This Seattle couple returned to the bride's hometown for a floral-filled celebration at one of the city's most beautiful hidden gems.

MORRIS HOUSE HOTEL, OLD CITY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LIZ PARRETT OF  
BROOKE COURTNEY PHOTOGRAPHY

It's a love story that began on opposite ends of the country, a connection ignited in true 21st-century fashion: on social media. In 2011, a mutual friend encouraged Daniil Zaika (a Seattle boy) to reach out to Philadelphia native Danie Pote, a "friendly, cool girl" who was known for her sense of humor on Twitter. When he got in touch—by tweeting her, of course—the two instantly clicked. ¶ In the months that followed, Danie relocated to San Francisco for work, and the two finally had a chance to meet in person: "He flew down from Seattle, hopped off the plane, and asked me to be his girlfriend right then and there. I'm so happy I said yes!" ¶ That wouldn't be the last time Danie said yes to such an important question: Two years later, following her move to Seattle, Daniil got down on one knee in the couple's home—right as his soon-to-be-fiancée was stepping out of the shower. (It should've been a beach proposal, but an unexpected rainstorm led to Plan B.) ¶ When it came to planning the Big Day, there was no doubt a Philly wedding was in the cards. Choosing a venue proved just as easy: "As soon as I saw pictures of the Morris House online, I knew we had to get married there," Danie says. "I couldn't believe this secret garden was tucked in the middle of the city. Once we had that booked, our plans really came to life." ¶ Those plans began with a heavy emphasis on florals: Amy Young of Wild Stems used locally grown blooms and lush greenery, like fresh moss and olive branches, to create the romantic, vintage-inspired setting of Danie's dreams. ("I actually started crying big, ugly tears when she walked into the hotel room with my bouquet!" the bride says.) From there, it was all about the personal touches that would make the day uniquely theirs. The most special detail: the vows they had handwritten in calligraphy and framed, then gifted to one another on the morning-of. "We wanted to recite our own vows to each other during the ceremony, but I knew I wouldn't be able to because I get so emotional," says Danie. "The framed vows now hang in our house as constant reminders of the promises we made to each other on our wedding day."



# DANIE & DANIL



**Opposite page, clockwise from top:** The couple decided against assigned seating, so in lieu of table numbers, they framed their favorite love poems and quotes. Danil's boutonniere featured an ivory dahlia and fresh greenery, all wrapped in twine. In keeping with tradition, the bride and groom ordered a small chocolate chip cake to cut into while their guests indulged in red velvet, lemon, funfetti and pumpkin cupcakes. Danie is a stationery lover, so for her invitation suite she knew she wanted thick paper, hand lettering and letterpress printing. Each invite was posted with vintage stamps they found at an old coin and stamp shop in Seattle.



## The Details

**VENUE:** Morris House Hotel, Old City

**PLANNER:** Rachel Ziegler of Floral & Bloom, Maryland

**CATERING & DESSERT:** M Restaurant at the Morris House, Old City; cake and cupcakes by Whipped Bakeshop, Fishtown; angeletti and pizzelle cookies baked by the bride's grandmother.

**FLOWERS:** Wild Stems, Fishtown

**FAVORS:** Coffee beans from AproposRoasters, Etsy

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Liz Parrett of Brooke Courtney Photography, Manheim

**VIDEOGRAPHY:** D.P. Weddings, California

**BRIDE'S LOOK:** Pronovias dress from Elizabeth Johns, Ardmore; earrings by BHLDN; Jimmy Choo shoes from Neiman Marcus, King of Prussia; hair by Ariel Katrina Hair, Cinnaminson; makeup by Rebecca Ryan, Warminster.

**BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES:** Their choices: Adrianna Papell, Aidan Mattox and Lauren Ralph Lauren

**GROOM'S FORMAL WEAR:** Custom suit from Marios, Seattle

**STATIONERY:** Paper & Honey, Michigan

**MUSIC:** Bachelor Boys Band, New York

## This page, clockwise from above:

Danie adored the calligraphy from their invitations so much so that she had Laura Joseph of Paper & Honey (whom she found on Etsy) handwrite their vows, too. For favors, the couple gave out individually wrapped bundles of coffee beans that were stamped with their wedding logo. The stunning centerpieces—a blend of lacy hydrangea, 'Cafe au Lait' dahlias, autumn cosmos and clematis—were accented by an assortment of gold votive holders. Danie wanted each of her bridesmaids to choose a dress she loved and would wear again; the only requirements were a neutral or gold color and some sort of beading or embellishment.

