

Elegant invitations set the tone for a wedding, from formal to fun and plenty in between

# pushing the envelope

By Christa L. Vagnozzi

LAYERS OF DELICATE JAPANESE lace paper sewn together with silk thread. A heavy Tiffany-blue square card accented with chocolate-brown ink. Embossed sea-shells anchored to an invite for a wedding on the Cape. Decorative cards tucked inside an envelope or hatbox with calligraphy. All of these are designed to entice you to open a very special invitation.

As a prelude to the wedding itself, "the invitation should demonstrate excitement and reflect your individuality as a couple," says Karen Bartolomei, president of Grapevine, a custom stationery design studio in South Boston. When it comes to invitations, the sky is the limit with eclectic styles, shapes and textures in addition to the traditional engraved black script on heavy ecru card stock.

"Couples struggle with wanting to be so different

*(continued on page 166)*



## picture this

Illustrations and monograms spark anticipation for those who receive them. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: a rectangle invitation on okawara scroll paper with a hand-drawn fish, an invitation with a yellow floral motif and a croma-orange vellum envelope and a sage-green invitation with a Hawaiian beach scene printed on a vellum overlay, all from Paper Source, Brookline; a hand-drawn navigational map by Pier Gustafson, Boston; a booklet with an announcement of nuptials in Rome by Karen Bartolomei, Grapevine, South Boston; and a square invitation with a block monogram on a vellum overlay, Paper Source. Accessories include a checkerboard-handled magnifying glass, \$295, Brodway Antiques & Jewelry, Boston; and Tiziano coffee paper, \$1.75 per 19-by-24-inch sheet, Rugg Road Paper Company, Boston. Turn to page 228 for additional shopping information.

## wrap it up

Packaging plays a starring role in today's wedding invitations, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: a yellow and white fan-shaped program, Massaro Design, Stoneham; a 4-by-9-inch save-the-date card with a hot-pink envelope by Mia Carta, Boston; a sage-green calligraphic invitation with a gondola motif and a white envelope tied with a matching straw bow, and a pink and white invitation attached inside a folded petal envelope, both at Paper Source; a pulled-out thank-you card with a maroon envelope by Karen Bartolomei, Grapevine; a fuchsia-orange invitation rolled up into a scroll and secured with gold string and two brown sticks, Paper Source; and a gold-splashed brown and white invitation tied together with twine and a paper leaf by Karen Bartolomei, Grapevine. Accessories include stainless-steel scissors by Antonia Campi, \$55, Good, Boston; a Japanese ivory letter opener, \$395, Brodney Antiques & Jewelry; and Embroidery paper in natural, \$7.85 per 19-by-27-inch sheet, Rugg Road Paper Company.

