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Flowers add instant beauty and make the place inviting and cheerful so be it the *sangeet*, *mehendi*, wedding or the reception, flowers

as they are perishable)" A wide range of accessories are used along with fresh flowers like mirrors, artifacts, candles, lanterns, electric lights etc, which can also beautify the venue in an exotic way.

Usually flowers are cho-

which the bride walks to the *mandap*, and also floral jewellery.

"Brides like to dress up in fresh flower jewellery made of orchids, carnations and roses for her *sangeet* and *mehendi* usually. We make earrings, necklace, *mang teeka*, arm-bands, etc." For clients, Thakkar has designed floral decorations on different themes like Eden Garden, Kashmiri garden (with imported tulips), Lotus, Japanese décor, and so on. "For *mandaps*, for *phas*, marigolds are used; for wedding receptions, it depends on the theme."

Radhika Doshi Kathpalia (www.sangath.org), an Ahmedabad-based architect, who has been in wedding decoration work

Wedding flower decorations

are must for décor. The vibrant and fragrant bloom of roses, mogras, orchids and daisies can simply make the wedding backdrop seem straight out of fairytale. Different flowers, styles, patterns and colours can be mixed to create a vibrant decoration. Flowers are both, the centrepieces and accessories of the wedding decorations, as they bring freshness with their fragrance and create an atmosphere of celebration.

Flowers are used to enhance the beauty of the *mandap*, wedding stage, dining table décor food canopies, the *doli* and car decorations. Nitinn Raichura of Perfect Décor (www.weddingdecorators.com), who, along with his wife, Arti has been running the business of wedding decoration in Mumbai for over two decades says, "Flowers can magically create a perfect ambience. For our clients we have created venues on themes like Vrindavan, Mughal, Egyptian, Fire-and-Ice. All the flowers were chosen accordingly. Today, clients are well aware of the trends and design. They surf the Internet and wish for a décor that is stylish, different and reflects their taste. White flowers are an all-time favourite, followed by red and pink. Also, we consider the colour of the bride and groom's getups, while designing the stage, as they have to be in focus. Along with fresh flowers, we also use artificial flowers, if required (in places where fresh flowers cannot be easily transported

sen as per the season—roses, orchids, carnations, mogras, marigolds, gerberas, anthuriums, birds of paradise, and so on. Today, florists source flowers from the local market and, depending on the clients budget, they also import them. "Flowers have an unspoken language and their beauty simply spreads happiness all

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around. While decorating with flowers, one should ensure that it complements the rest of the decoration," says Dolly Thakkar (www.designerflora.com), the Mumbai-based florist, an Ikebana teacher, who is also on the panel of Trident hotel. She designs bridal bouquets, garlands, bouquets that go with champagne bottles and chocolate boxes, flower arrangements for weddings, wedding night room decorations, meshes of flowers under

for over two decades and has designed exclusive wedding venues in various cities across India, adds, "I prefer doing parabolic and hyperbolic structures of fresh flowers, with combinations of aromatic Indian flowers, such as roses, parijats, mogra and lotuses, combined with different traditional Indian crafts, handmade paper, the light of diyas and water bodies to create a magical ambience. I love creating wedding venues as an experience to be in and that people remember". Delicate and stunning fresh flowers are one of the most important part of wedding décor today. When used creatively, they can simply make the venue ethereal.

