

Finishing Touches

■ Turn your reception into an unforgettable experience with creative and unexpected elements — *By Kristen Manieri*

Guest Perks

Spoil your guests a little, and they'll remember your wedding forever: Susie Weiss of Wonderful Weddings in Winter Park suggests having a basket of various-sized flip-



flops by the dance floor so ladies can slip into something more dance-friendly. You can pick up a couple dozen inexpensive sets at Old Navy or opt for custom flip-flops in your wedding colors and monogram at PartyFlops.com. Consider laying out a midnight snack buffet with fresh chocolate chip cookies or hot French fries. Or set up a candy buffet (sandysdandybuffets.vpweb.com) with little bags of treats that each guest can take home. Finally, give your guests a keepsake of your big day, courtesy of The Flipbook People (theflipbookpeople.com). On-site videographers create a seven-second video clip that is converted into a flipbook with a custom cover. The fun and interactive process takes less than five minutes and leaves your guests with something they'll treasure forever.



Lounging Around

Unconventional furniture set up to create conversation or lounging spaces is the latest craze in wedding receptions. "We've integrated furniture into dining areas with booth seating to create a restaurant feel," says Lindsay Cosimi Masterson of AFR Event Furnishings (afrevents.com). "You can create areas for people who aren't dancing that look very Miami club-like or more shabby chic," says Masterson. Lamps, rugs and custom pillows with your wedding day colors can help tie the area to your overall wedding design while still maintaining a distinctive look.



Light Up the Sky

To elicit oohs and aahs from your guests, have an Aerial Messages airplane (aerialmessages.com) tow a personalized "Just Married" banner across the sky during your cocktail hour. For outdoor nighttime receptions, consider a spectacular midnight fireworks show with Creative Pyrotechnics (florida.creativepyro.com) or have your guests surround the dance floor with lit sparklers during your first dance. The resulting photographs will be fabulous.

