

Marie-Margot Bridal Couture

INSIGHTS INTO COLORADO'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

WOMEN TYPICALLY HAVE MORE THAN ONE CAREER in their lives but often have to wait. The demanding roles of wife and mother precede the pursuit of a special vocation or passion. Yet, after children are grown, few actually have the courage to strike out and take the risk. Littleton entrepreneur Margaret (Maggie) Burns, owner of Marie-Margot Bridal Couture, proves that all you really have to do is follow your heart.

"I grew up in rural Colorado, near Rifle," said Maggie. "One of nine children. My mother sewed and made clothes for all of us, especially beautiful prom gowns for the girls. I picked up sewing from her, learning by watching. Later on I pursued an education, acquiring an executive MBA from CSU in Denver and also studied fashion design

and construction in college." Burns married, had children of her own, and up until 2007, worked in the corporate world. All along, she made gowns for friends and family, something she really enjoyed. "I finally decided it was time to start my own business and sew," said Burns. "Becoming a bridal gown designer is something I've wanted to do my entire life."

Today, as a solo entrepreneur, Burns is redefining life in entirely new terms. She's a one-woman workshop, acting as designer, fabricator and business manager. She leaves the marketing to word-of-mouth and social media. "Once I decided to take the plunge, I felt as if it were now or never. I committed 100%. What I discovered was that being a wedding gown designer is supported by an exchange of extremely positive energy. Each one of my clients is so happy and optimistic about the future. I adore being part of that experience. Over time, we become true friends. It's deeply personal. I always feel sad when the gown is made and delivered and the exchange is over. It's a special relationship."

Burns opened her wedding gown business in an office building off Littleton Boulevard four years ago. The

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BRIDAL GOWN

DESIGNER

location is easily accessible and very private, and fittings are by appointment. The salon is an intimate space—just two rooms, but filled with inspiration. Clients are greeted in a front gallery filled with fabrics and elegant gowns displayed next to a cozy sitting area. Through an open doorway her studio beckons with two professional sewing machines; a workshop where magic transpires and dreams come true.

In addition to wedding gowns in every shade of ivory and white, clients will also find spectacular examples of cocktail or evening wear, a further extension of Burn's creative hand. Going-away outfits, dresses for mothers-of-the-bride, and other types of specialty gowns are her staples.

Burn's eyes sparkle when she talks about the process of bringing a wedding ensemble to life. "I always begin by talking about the wedding; where it will be held and what season. I try to under-

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stand the client's lifestyle, their honeymoon plans, everything. All of this helps point me in the direction of what's appropriate, long before we take any measurements or look at fabrics. Once that's done however, and I get an idea of the kind of dress she envisions, I'll make a muslin and then work out the details."

Burns also makes bridesmaid's dresses ranging from the full-length gowns for formal weddings to charming shorter cotton dresses, such as those made last summer for a more casual ranch wedding. Her work was featured recently in a fundraising fashion show (The Red Ball) where a series of fantasy

wedding gowns wowed audiences. On another occasion, she made a dress that was worn to the red carpet reception in Hollywood for the wife of a local filmmaker. Glamour aside, Burns muses on one of her most memorable commissions: "I was asked to create a wedding gown that integrated a veil belonging to the mother of the bride from her wedding in the 50's, and a slip from her grandmother's trousseau. We created an heirloom dress for a girl who cherished the end result much more than anything she could have found off the rack. That's the beauty of custom design. You can get exactly what you want."

THE DETAILS

MARIE-MARGOT BRIDAL COUTURE

OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

WWW.MARIEMARGOT.COM

303-748-3562

- 1 MAGGIE BURNS AT WORK IN HER SHOP
- 2 THIS ETHereal GOWN FEATURES LAYERS OF TULLE AND LACE
- 3 AN EVENING GOWN CONSTRUCTED OF SILK AND LACE



Maggie Burns is on her way to becoming a part of Colorado's history. Hundreds of wedding albums, portraits and videos will feature her commitment to life, to beauty, and the promise of nuptial happiness. **CE**

Corinne Joy Brown, author and freelance writer, writes for local and national magazines in the areas of art, design, architecture, fashion and Western culture. She especially admires "starting over" stories and women with talent and true grit like Maggie Burns who, in her own way, is making the world a better place.