

Toronto Life Entertaining Guide 2002

Posies

Try as you might, you won't find carnations or baby's breath anywhere in Karina Lemke's Mirvish Village shop. Lemke uses seasonal flowers, pods and seeds in her modern, garden-inspired designs. May lilacs and June peonies yield to delphiniums in July; winter brings hydrangeas or tiny electric blue steel berries. Uncluttered bouquets are accented with rich, waxy greens rather than traditional fillers and ferns. Add the finest satin ribbon, and it's a wrap. Lemke's impeccable taste dictates decorous containers for any budget, ensuring even meagre arrangements appear substantial. She babies her clients, fielding frantic three a.m. phone calls with hushed, reassuring tones that soothe the nerves of any frazzled entertainer.

Where: 590 Markham St. (at Bloor St. W.), 416-588-9061, www.toronto.com/littleshop.

When: M-F 10-6, Sa 10-3; bridal work by appointment only.

How much: from \$30 for cocktail arrangements; standards from \$150; bridal work from \$15 per guest, including personal, ceremonial and reception flowers; delivery from \$7.

Delivery area: GTA.

Lead time: order by 11 a.m. for same-day delivery; large gatherings should be booked up to six months in advance.