

THE COUTURIER

IN THE PALE BLUE STUDIO ATOP HER CENTURY HOME, Catherine Langlois is as adept at reading minds as she is at creating custom wedding gowns. Some brides seek her out after seeing one of her designs; others arrive not quite knowing what they want. "At the first consultation, I can sense what a woman is looking for just by reading her body language," Langlois says. "If she doesn't feel comfortable, she just won't radiate happiness."

Over her 15-odd years sewing custom dresses for Catherine Langlois Bridal Design, Langlois has outfitted all kinds, from a banker in black lace to a 71-year-old marrying for the first time. When brides show up at their weddings – whether in Greece, a beach in Costa Rica or the city's lavish venues – they've been as much a part of the creative process as Langlois.

That one-on-one time is what drew Langlois toward bridal design when she was studying fashion at Ryerson University. First she determines a woman's preference for soft silky fabrics or crisp structured ones; then she creates a muslin dress and collaborates with the bride to work out the perfect style and fit. At the next fitting, the bride slips on the dress in one of Langlois' exclusive fabrics and decides on finishing details – maybe beading or a brooch. "This isn't pseudo-custom where I do alterations or add a sleeve," says Langlois. "Each dress is completely made for the client, which makes women feel incredibly beautiful and comfortable and true to themselves." ❁



CATHERINE LANGLOIS, Catherine Langlois Bridal Design



REQUESTING A CUSTOM GOWN from designer Catherine Langlois means women get to choose every detail, from the drape of the fabric to the cut of the neckline. It's no wonder Langlois receives a glowing thank you from brides: "I have never felt as good in an article of clothing as I did in that dress," wrote one. Another admitted she couldn't bring herself to put away her dress after the wedding: "It's still hanging in my room so I can gaze at it."

