

# Somewhere in Time

From romantic lace bodices to stacked Art Deco bangles, bridal style is having a vintage revival—and our favorite stores know just how to work that something old. | *By Katie Schroeder* | *Photography by Greg Gillis* |

## Past Progressive

In addition to specializing in clothing and accessories from the early 1900s to the 1980s—and calling Steven Tyler one of its clients—**Silver Moon** in Bucktown also houses one of the country's largest collections of vintage bridal. “There’s something amazing about every dress’s past, and the new life that comes to them with a future bride,” says owner Liz Meyer, who takes things a step further with her Silhouettes Bridal Collection, a line of vintage-inspired gowns and accessories she designs herself. “We create one-of-a-kind hair adornments using vintage jewelry for brides and bridesmaids. If you’re wearing vintage for the big day, the accessories just complete the look.” And should your two-piece Victorian gown be in need of a nip or tuck, the store’s in-house studio can handle almost any heirloom revival or alteration. *1721 W. North Ave., 773.235.5797, silvermoonvintage.com*

## Treasure Blessed

**LuLu’s at the Belle Kay** is well-known for its vintage and costume jewelry selections, but it’s also a go-to spot for gowns and shorter tea- and cocktail-length party dresses (think Oscar de la Renta, Halston and Chris Benz looks from the 1920s to the 1980s). “Clothing from the past is usually beautifully made, using fabrics that you just can’t find today,” says owner Laurie Davis, who understands that every bride wants to be unique and beautiful on her big day. Plus, vintage can put this sort of quality within reach of a bride on a budget, adds Davis. “Many of today’s young brides are having to pay for part of the wedding and making a choice *not* to spend thousands of dollars on a gown, but rather putting that money toward a honeymoon or home purchase.” *3862 N. Lincoln Ave., 773.404.5858, lulusbellekay.com*

## Sensual Revival

“I am absolutely seeing a trend toward wearing more vintage cocktail dresses in the white/cream/gold palette as opposed to the more traditional full white wedding dress,” says Kelsey Tanner-O’Connor, owner of the West Loop’s **Décollage**. Its specialty? 1940s to 1970s vintage clothing, jewelry and handbags sourced from around the world. “I’m all about making designer fashion



A wedding gown in the showroom window at Silver Moon

accessible to everyone, not just the super-rich,” says Tanner-O’Connor, who also stocks high-end dresses perfect for an engagement photo shoot or rehearsal dinner, including resale pieces (some less than 10 years old) from designers like Prada, Alexander McQueen and Chanel. Plus, she carries lines of vintage and new (but vintage-inspired) lingerie, so you can pick up a little something extra-special for the honeymoon. *1219 W. Madison St., 312.226.8087, shopdecollage.com*

## Finders, Keepers!

Beloved Oak Street boutique **Sofia** has one of the city’s best vintage selections mixed in with carefully edited new designs from rising-star labels. “One of my favorite designers right now is Ani Lee,” says co-owner Ashley Zisook. “She creates romantic dresses using elegant vintage fabrics.” But if a bride has her heart set on a 100 percent vintage gown, Zisook recommends starting early and checking often. “When you finally find it, no one else will have your dress,” she says. “It will truly be one-of-a-kind.” *72 E. Oak St., 312.640.0878, sofavintage.com* ●

## DOWN TO GOWN

Rick and Lynda Wood, owners of Five-Star Certified Couture Cleaner Davis Imperial Cleaners, set the standard for restoring and preserving wedding gowns. So we asked the experts: When it comes to seeing a vintage gown’s potential (or potential flaws), what should a bride look for?

### A MUSTY ODOR

Mildew can weaken the tensile strength of a fabric beyond repair.

### DISCOLORATION

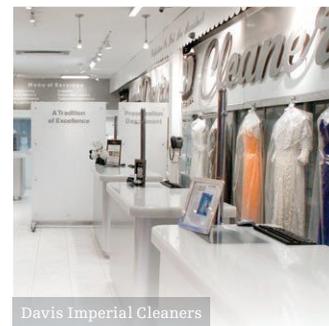
Long-set stains can hinder the process of restoring a fabric to a uniform color.

### FUME FADING

Like furniture, a dress that was stored with only a part of it exposed to sunlight can fade irreversibly.

### SNAGS AND TEARS

Keep an eye out for rips that can’t be seamlessly fixed by a tailor. *davisimperial.com*



Davis Imperial Cleaners