

# Behind the Seams - Anne Bertossi BY QUEENSLAND BRIDES

## **Bertossi Brides at Paddington Weddings**

2012 is extra special for Anne Bertossi as she celebrates her label's 20-year anniversary. The English-born designer worked in a bridal shop when she first moved to Australia in 1991, recognising the need for "classic simple designs using fabrics suitable for our Queensland climate". After falling in love with a local lad, Anne also fell for a charming worker's cottage in Paddington which she and her husband bought and renovated to create the destination that is Paddington Weddings. Since then Anne has worked alongside her mother Josie, sister Gill and their close, talented team to individually craft, create and finish each elegant gown in what is possibly Brisbane's most scenic workroom.

Located at the back of the cottage it's flooded with natural light and boasts city views! Brides now fly from around the country to visit the treasure trove of gorgeous gowns and accessories and experience the warm family welcome.

## **What are the key shapes and styles in your latest collection?**

Within our 2012-13 collection we are incorporating a lot of different necklines and sleeve options in our stunning laces.

## **What's next for your label?**

My sister Gill and I are so excited that our new laces and silks are starting to arrive from Europe and the designs are receiving an amazing response. We want to continue to travel to Paris and hand pick our fabrics each year, making sure they are exclusive to us and our brides. For us the quality of our gowns and customer service is of the utmost importance so we never want to become huge and dilute our product, we love what we do and want to just keep improving on our brand and enjoying it.

You are inspired by?

Fabric, fabric, fabric ...

## **Your favourite designer or fashion icon?**

Coco Chanel.

If you weren't a designer you would be

unemployable! I have had my own business since I was 20. I used to work for my parents in the clothing industry, while I was studying fashion, but was sacked many times by my own dad! I don't think I was ever meant to work for anyone but myself!

## **Your top tip for finding the perfect gown?**

Don't bring too many friends with you when you first start trying on gowns, everyone has such a different opinion and it can be very confusing for the bride. If you have a family member or a close friend you can trust, you will find it a much more enjoyable experience.

## **Even on a budget, brides should never skimp on....**

Quality fabrics.