



David Meister slate gray silk cocktail dress with a trapunto stitching corset bodice and skirt. The scoop neckline is encrusted with smoke colored beading; \$550.

Mariella Perna Mariella Creations Rocky Hill

Mariella Creations' knowledge of the bridal industry is legendary, and owner Mariella Perna has the eye for special occasion, cocktail and formal dresses as well. "For the fall cocktail line, I am seeing one shoulder, strapless, spaghetti straps and off-the-shoulder for necklines.

Body shape is fitted with lots of ruching and gathers. There is a return of the empire waist and the baby doll look," Ms. Perna said. "Jewel tones, burgundies, plums, grays, navy, hunter green — and of course black — will never go out of style. Simple and understated is in. Beading is distinctly clustered or kept to a brooch. Nicole Miller is showing dark floral prints. There really is something for every taste."