



# THE *Wedding* VENUE OF THE YEAR

Fida Chaaban

## AGA is Simply the Best

From its prime location in the heart of downtown Edmonton's arts and culture district to its catering par excellence, the Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) is Blush's pick for best venue of the year. The exclusive contract caterers for the AGA, Zinc Catering are responsible for the venue's well-known gastronomic dining experience. Zinc Catering's Elisa De Fazio took Blush on a tour of the gallery so we could get a better idea of who's holding their wedding there and why.

The AGA is a breathtaking, singular architectural achievement that needs next to no adornment, guaranteeing world-class elegance for wedding, engagement, or rehearsal events, even for the bride who likes to keep things simple. For those who want to add some extra oomph, the space itself transforms beautifully. The AGA's event facility consists of a multitiered visual extravaganza that comfortably seats 200 for a plated dinner and 300 for a standing reception. Renowned architect Randall Stout, who designed the space, is known for creating environments that capture the unique composition of their natural surroundings, while transforming light, shadow, form, and materials into dynamic architecture. His projects are known for vibrant forms, state-of-the-art technology, and environmental sustainability.

"The space itself is magnificently engineered, both for acoustics and for lighting, with the best technical options available," explains Elisa. The Light Column, made of acrylic panels and lit from within, is unmatched in an Edmonton venue for both ingenuity and the fact that it can be custom tinted to suit the couple's preferred colour. A mezzanine and several areas connected by a stunning staircase can be sectioned off or booked as a whole, ensuring that the AGA has a space appropriate for virtually any event. The exterior employs patinated zinc panels and curving stainless steel to create shapes and colours inspired by the aurora borealis at a staggering height of 102 feet. And going chic while staying green is easy, considering that 90 percent of the steel used in the AGA was derived from recycled materials.

A chat with Executive Chef David Omar gave us a glimpse of what is easily one of the most creatively designed fine-dining menus available in Western Canada. Blush loves Chef David's vision, incorporating locally sourced, fresh ingredients into signature creations built around the couple's preferences. "I think that what we do with our couple's choices in mind really stands out, especially when you see that even colour is taken into consideration," says Chef David, who regularly uses culinary textures and colours that play into the couple's theme.

Topping off the surreal structure and gourmet cuisine, the art gallery showcases some of the biggest talents to ever grace Alberta, which should be the tipping point for any art-loving couple. And what does that couple give as wedding favours? Passes to the gallery, of course.



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