



ARTIST'S STUDIO ✦  
take the cake

**A LOVELY WEDDING JUST ISN'T COMPLETE** without a gorgeous wedding cake that tastes as wonderful as it looks. Luckily, Susan Warner's creations are heaven on a plate. Her elegant cakes can be either traditional or unique, and brides can select from a variety of flavors. The layers can be as basic as white or chocolate, or as unique as lemon poppy seed or carrot cake, and the delicate fillings include chocolate buttercream, strawberry and pineapple. Topped with sweet, fluffy icing, each slice is something to celebrate.

The demand for her desserts keeps Warner quite busy. Wedding season starts the weekend after Easter, and during the summer, she sometimes bakes and decorates up to 12 stunning cakes in a weekend. And, she's been doing this for more than 25 years.

"For me it's a passion, something I was always interested in," she says. "I started out doing birthday cakes for my kids, and then I took a cake decorating class."

It wasn't long before she was teaching the class. That was in Florida, where she lived with her husband, Tom. A few years later, they moved to Milwaukee, and after setting up a special kitchen in their home, they began building a business here.

That business is Brookfield Wedding Cakes, still operated out of the Warners' home in Brookfield. Tom helps bake, fill and deliver the cakes, and Susan is the artist who creates the elegant and whimsical designs out of icing that make her the go-to

referral for reception sites such as the Pfister Hotel and Davians Banquet Center.

Warner cites her website, [brookfieldweddingcakes.com](http://brookfieldweddingcakes.com), as a valuable resource. Many of her popular cake designs are featured on the site. "Out-of-town brides get referrals, and many can pick out a cake without ever meeting me," she says.

Her top-seller is the tuxedo cake, with a layer of chocolate and white cake together on each slice. Raspberry is the most requested filling. Most cakes are stacked now, without pillars, Warner says, and fresh flowers and satin ribbons are common adornments. A popular request is her present cake, which looks like a tower of colorful wrapped gifts, complete with ribbons and bows. And Warner creates magic out of icing — from glittery snowflakes to roses and calla lilies.

"I'd have a hard time picking out a cake if I was getting married now," she says. "When I got married there weren't many choices."

Warner urges brides to contact her a year or more in advance to book their wedding date at 262.781.2253.

— LORI NADOLSKI



TIP ✦

**hang-ups** ARTWORK PUTS such a personal stamp on your home that it's imperative to make sure the pieces you choose are framed and matted to their best advantage. Frames are available in a wide variety of styles and finishes to help you express a particular aesthetic. For instance, a carved and gilded frame will connote a formal ambience that would be a wonderful complement to an Old World room, while shiny chrome is better suited to an ultra-modern look. If you want a strong statement, go with a larger frame. Or you can stack two together, one inside the other, to create your own customized frame.

The matting between the frame and the

art gives you yet another opportunity to articulate your design by using colors that are found both in the piece and in the room. Replacing the mats on your existing artwork is an easy, inexpensive way to work a favorite old piece into a new décor. Layering color by adding a second or third mat helps direct the eye in toward the artwork. Normally, mats add approximately 3 to 4 inches around a picture, but with smaller pieces, a very large mat is a fun and unexpected solution to make the piece more noticeable. Take a look at the art in your home and see if it can use more dramatic packaging, and then schedule a visit to a frame shop to discover the many options offered.

— K.F.