

## Ida & Alex: and three makes perfect



**Having three wedding receptions is a feat. But when it all comes together beautifully, it's reflective of how love does really conquer all.**

**PHOTOGRAPHY DAVELAB MOTIONS (IN KUALA LUMPUR) & JENS TEISCHMANN (IN GERMANY)  
WEDDING PLANNER LETICIA/EVENTS WIZARD (IN KUALA LUMPUR)**

When two people from two different continents find love in each other, compromise is a must. Ida Normila Hilmi and Alexander Loch had found the recipe to their great relationship; giving their very best to each other steals more than mere heart, garners devotion.

They had three wedding receptions to accommodate all their friends and family members, and the last was an informal do held in Germany. "There were about 50 people, mostly from Alexander's side. A few of my family members were also there," says Ida.

It was a cosy tea party with coffee and cake, then a short video presentation on the wedding celebrations they had in Kuala Lumpur, and then on to dinner. "There was a violinist who played German folk songs and a lot of dancing. We finished at 1am! I was so exhausted by the end of it, but by German standards, it was apparently a short one," exclaimed Ida with a bright smile.

They met in London where Ida and Loch were both working as doctors there. Their meeting seemed very much like an episode of Grey's anatomy; they were both on call during Christmas and she was taking a break in the doctor's room when he went into the room. They started talking and soon enough, he asked her out.

A few months later Ida moved back to Malaysia and their love bloomed in a long distance relationship, during which time, they saw each other about four to five times a year. "I would go over to London twice a year and he would come down the other two times to visit me in Malaysia," says Ida.

The proposal was a no frills affair. "Somehow, it was understood that we would get married. He said to me one day that he didn't like formalities... so here is the ring! It was typically straight-forward German-style," said Ida with a laugh.

The couple had two ceremonies in Kuala Lumpur: An akad nikah ceremony in Ida's parents' home and a reception in Carcosa. The theme for both the receptions was cream and orange in colour. Ida wanted something bright yet elegant, and orange was actually considered unusual for a Malay wedding, so it's unique.

"Because of the limited space in Ida's parents' home, we put up marquees in the front and back of the house. The setting was like a hotel with cool mist fans and raised platforms in the garden so that the guests' shoes would not get dirty from walking in the garden," explained Leticia Hsu, Ida's wedding planner. The reception at Carcosa was an intimate and informal affair for about 56 close friends and relatives. "We dressed up the grand staircase with organza and satin in orange and cream, large bouquet of flowers made up of lilies, orchids and ivy. It

really looked beautiful,” adds Hsu.

Ida and Loch walked down the stairs as guests waited for them at the lobby, “and a string quartet played Canon in D by Pachelbel. It’s my favourite piece of music,” said Ida. “I first heard it in a concert in Venice a few years ago before I even met Alexander and immediately made up my mind that I wanted that music played when I got married,” revealed Ida.

An intimate four-course French dinner ensued at the adjoining dining room where each table was named after a place they had visited together in Germany, Malaysia and Various parts of Europe.

At the end of the dinner the couple led a waltz in the lobby. Ida was reluctant to dance since she felt that both of them were not very proficient in dancing, but Loch insisted as it was a tradition in western weddings for the bride and groom to dance together. “We had to take a crash course in waltz for about two days before the wedding,” said Ida.

Ida admitted that the trouble was worth it because in the end, her dream wedding came true. It was simple and wonderfully reflected the couple’s personalities.