

WEDDING Cakes

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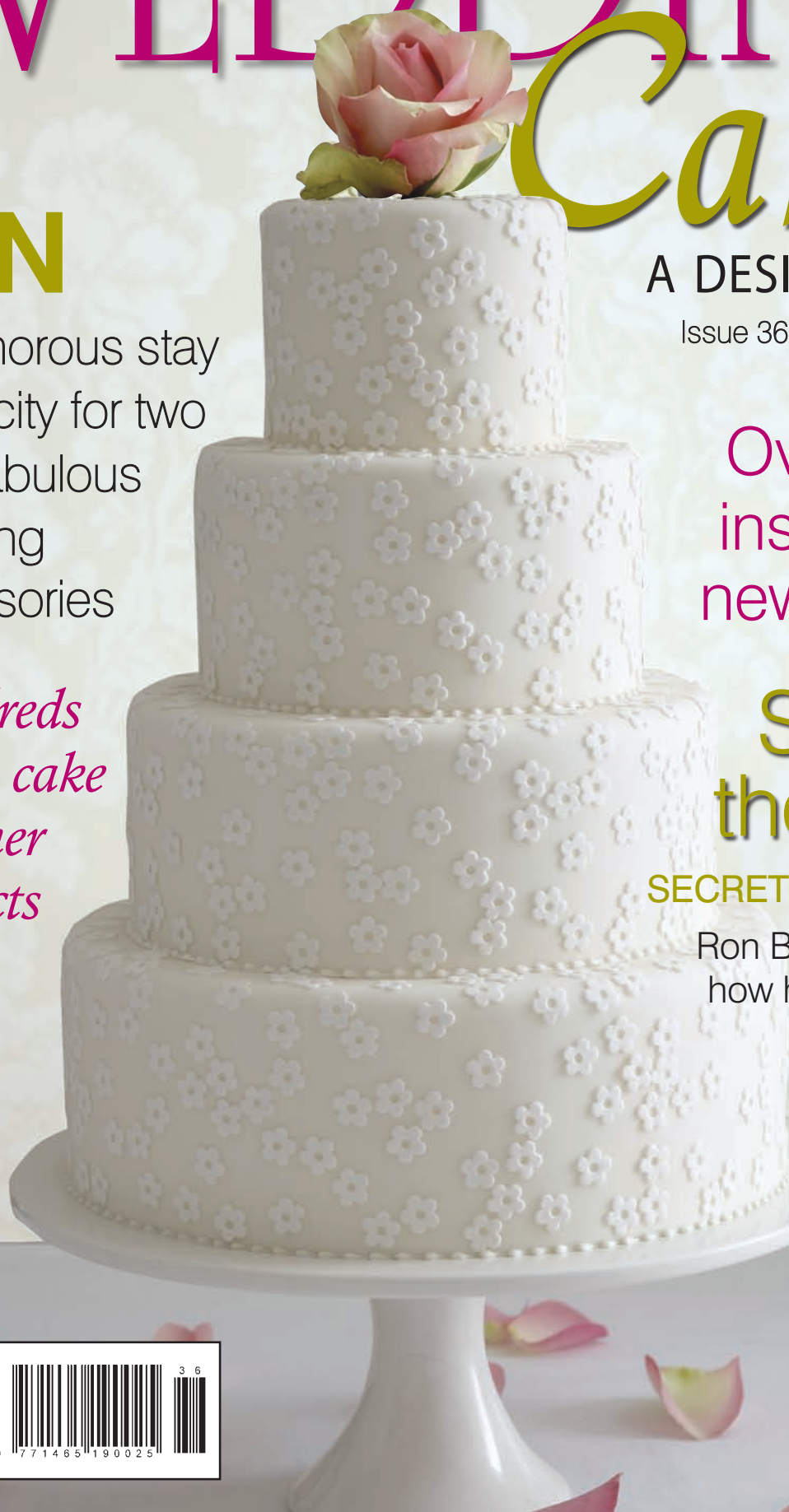
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Sex and the City 2

SECRETS UNCOVERED

Ron Ben-Israel reveals
how he made the star
wedding cake



SQUIRES KITCHEN MAGAZINE PUBLISHING



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO CHOOSING YOUR WEDDING CAKE

Sex and the City 2

UNCOVERED

If you've already watched Sex and the City 2 then you'll have seen the stunning tiered white wedding cake dripping with Swarovski crystals – an inspiration for brides and cake designers alike. We spoke to American cake decorating sensation, Ron Ben-Israel (right), who revealed how he and his team made the star wedding cake.



How did it come about that you made the wedding cake for Sex and the City 2?

We were contacted by the team of set designers for the movie who had seen our work in the media. We've also cooperated in the past with Swarovski Crystal to showcase their newest products on cakes.

How did you come up with the design?

We were given the parameters by the set designers: an elegant, white, over-the-top wedding setting. Interestingly, the design didn't call for the use of sugar flowers, for which we are well known; the key words were "frozen water" and "sparkle". There was to be no colour in the cake, just white, transparency, and reflection of light.

We started looking at chandeliers for inspiration, but most of the shapes had too much flare on the bottom to become elegant cakes. Then we started looking at the use of crystals in fashion, and came upon a razzle-dazzle gown American actress, singer and dancer, Mitzi Gaynor, wore for her shows in Las Vegas. It was designed by Bob Mackie and was the most svelte and glamorous inspiration. You have to see it to believe it! We were also inspired by Gustav Klimt's famous painting, *The Kiss*.

Cake surfaces are textured with a mix of mostly edible + some inedible elements of pearls, beads, textures in a modern homage to both Klimt's Kiss + Bob Mackie's Naked Dresses

3 "SHOWERS" of SWAROVSKI CRYSTALS

"invisible" LUCITE STAND

"invisible" TALL LUCITE STAND

34" TO floor LUCITE "cake stand" TABLE





FEATURE

How did you make the cake?

We wanted to extend the cake tiers and achieve the illusion that they were floating on air. Acrylic proved the best material and we had a custom stand fashioned for the cake. Swarovski provided us with over 4,000 individual crystals, mostly chandelier type which have a tiny hole for hanging. We strung the crystals with clear monofilament line then the strands were strategically attached to pre-drilled holes in the acrylic stand.

We employ ten full-time chefs and artisans at our shop and we also have an internship program so an additional three students rotate every season. Constructing the cake took nine people fifty hours so the total amount of hours worked was 450!

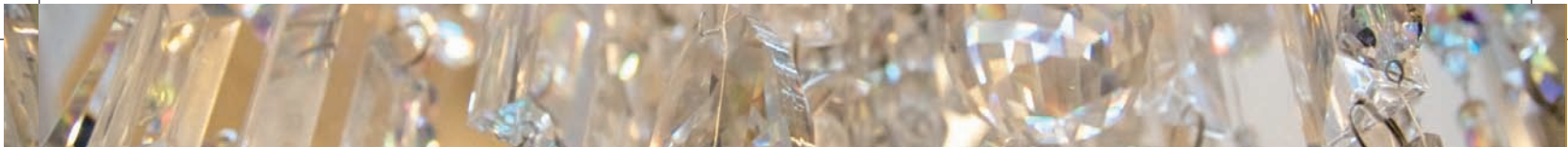
What kind of cake was inside the icing?

The producers requested the cake to be our purest vanilla cake, nicknamed White Cloud cake. It's based on egg whites beaten to a meringue that gets folded into the cake batter for lightness. The fillings were vanilla bean buttercream with tiny flakes of the vanilla seeds.



“It was a challenge to keep the movie stars from eating the cake before the filming was over!”





FEATURE

Were you able to transport and set up the cake without any problems?

The five cake tiers were transported separately and placed on the stand in the movie studio. We use large vans to deliver our cakes, so the upright stand was not a problem. It was only a challenge to keep the movie stars from eating the cake before the filming was over!



Did you go to see the film and were you pleased with the final result?

I did go to see the movie with my staff, and we were delighted that the cake was seen, even though it was only for 30 seconds. Another of our designs (below) made the cut for the final scene: a birthday cake for Rose, Charlotte's daughter.



The SATC2 Cake at a Glance	
Height:	6' 4"
Serves:	485 guests
Swarovski crystals used:	4,100
Cost of crystals:	US\$16,000 (£11,000)
Custom acrylic stand:	US\$3,500 (£2,400)
Hours worked:	450
Total cost of cake:	US\$32,000 (£22,000)

You can find out more about Ron and see his stunning designs at www.weddingcakes.com.
See www.sexandthecitymovie.com for more information about the film.