

CULTURAL DIVINE

EASTERN TRADITIONS FUSED WITH WESTERN IDEAS
IN A WEDDING THAT WAS JUST WHAT THE
DOCTORS ORDERED.

MONICA SHUKLA + KUSHAL SHAH
FEBRUARY 21, 2015



{ text by Stacy Girard & photography by Apryl Ann Photography }

SOME MEN CHOOSE A PALM-LADEN ISLAND AS A PROPOSAL DESTINATION. Not Kushal Shah. He popped the question to his girlfriend, Monica Shukla, at curbside pickup at the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. Anything more extravagant, and his smart, doctor girlfriend, who was returning from a job interview, would have been onto him. "He was looking for shock value," Monica says. He got it. After Kushal slipped the round-cut diamond onto her finger, the couple hopped into a limo and made an evening of it, retracing the sites of their first dates.

The pair was set up through a friend in 2011, while each was in a residency program just about a mile from each

other. Though she didn't know it was going to be forever from their first night out, she did know a second date was a sure thing. "Kushal is pretty different than me," she says. "He's very funny and carefree, a little bit more of a dreamer."

When her residency ended in June 2014, Monica had already landed a job as an attending physician at Milwaukee's Medical College of Wisconsin. Less-than-desirable winter-weather conditions nixed Milwaukee from the running as a wedding locale for their February nuptials, and ultimately, Dallas won out, due to both having family in the area.

The couple wished to honor their families by incorporating traditional Indian wedding rituals, but they still wanted