

Wedding in Zen Sanctuary

On November 24, 2009 the Zen Sanctuary – created by fashion designer Donna Karan as a refuge for cancer patients and their family members and housed on 9 Dazian at Beth Israel – became a place of wedded bliss when patient Shayne O’Neill married Rebekah Meek, his girlfriend of nearly two years. The duo moved to New York City from North Carolina in July, 2009 and had been talking about getting married after Rebekah graduated from Parson’s school of Design. However, when Shayne was diagnosed with lymphoma in the fall, they decided to move the wedding date up. Since both Shayne and Rebekah’s parents came to New York when Shayne got sick, the families were able to be present at their nuptials, which were performed by a friend of the family. “Being able to get married in the Zen Sanctuary was a real treat for us,” says Shayne. “The calming space carved into the hospital was really beautiful.” Among the attendees was Shayne’s aunt, BI podiatrist Nadya Dimitrov. Following his hospital stay, the couple moved back to North Carolina to have the support of family and friends while Shayne is receiving treatment. The couple, who both changed their last names to Miel (a combination of both their former last names) plans to have another wedding with friends and family in North Carolina this coming fall. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Miel from the entire Beth Israel family!