

Flower Arranging
by
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Mechanics

Pruning shears (trimming)
Needlepoint holder
Container - insert plastic for liner (water)
Caulking compound (roll in hands)
Mechanical twice as thick with compound (solid)
Cup holders (round - oval)
Flat wood with molding glued on (paint black) base
Candle holder (cup) - oasis (springer - flower)
Oblong bowl - oasis - 3 candles
Orchid (in vase)
Make arrangement night before
Wire (tape to cover) as: (shepherd crook into flower)
Remove leaves below oasis of water

Suggestions

Cut edge of container with leaves
Seal milky stems with flame or water (hot)
Oasis (solid to needlepoint holder - do not leave
pocket of air
Needlepoint - onion bag - oasis
Oasis above container (1 inch) to add greenery around
side

Mechanics

Containers

Neutral colors

Simple shapes

If white - use white in arrangement'

Suit container to arrangement material

Relate to place you plan to use arrangement

Holders

Needle point

Oasis

cling

Cup holders

chicken wire (crumple)

Bases

Adds importance to arrangement

Gives height

Get arrangement to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from top of easel.

Oasis in container can show but not detract from arrangement.

Baskets make good containers (Fla.)

Principles of Design

Balance

Visual stability - size, color line, texture of plant material. Heavy at bottom. Think container.

Dominance

Control of design by an element. Foliage - flower - group of flowers (focal point).

Contrast

Use elements to emphasize difference (round - pointed leaf). Gaillardia, Sapodilla, Bay Cedar
2 types of background (sharp & round) Scavola & Stag Horn or sea grape. 2 kinds of greenery.

Rhythm

Flow of material carrying the eye thru the design.

Proportion

Relationship of one part to another and to space it occupies. ($1\frac{1}{2}x$ or $2x$ height - same to width/low)

Scale

Size relationship of parts.

Elements of Design

Space

Niche

Imaginary limits

Line

Foundation of design

Vertical - diagonal - horizontal - oblique

Form

Final result of materials

May be closed or open

Pattern

Relation of solids and open space

Two (2) of each - greens or flowers

Texture and Color

Consider background, plant material, container,
accessories - variety needed

Balance
(visual stability)

Symmetrical

Appearance of plant material same on both sides of
imaginary verticle axis rising from center.

Formal, restful, but dull, unimaginative.

Use against symetrical background.

Basis for traditional arranging.

Asymetrical

Plant materials are not arranged the same on both sides
of imaginary verticle axis.

Informal, creative, emotional, more difficult.

Ways to achieve

- 1) Self balance
- 2) Balance by placement
- 3) Balance by accessory

Guide to Balance

Keep dark colors low

Make lowest part of arrangement most compact

Place largest flowers at center of interst

Use base beneath container

Make both sides seem equally heavy

Contrast

Adds vitality, interest, avoids monotony in an arrangement
achieved by -

Contrast of line

Choose plant materials of opposing movement

Contrast of form

Rounded bloom - pointed leaf

Full double bloom - large, plain leaf

Solid flowerhead - deeply cut leaf

Contrast in texture

Smooth texture - coarse texture

Soft, velvety petals - glossy foliage

Contrast in color

Analogous - neighboring colors

Complimentary - opposite on color wheel

Dark colors - heavier - use some light

Solid green - varigated green

Color

Monochromatic

Shades of one hue

Complementary

Opposite on color wheel (red - green)

Analogous

Neighboring colors on wheel (gaillardia)

Tips

Pale colors less value (use high and outer edges)

Dark colors more value (use low and center)

Use some white if white ~~container~~ container

Rhythm

Use curved line material arranged so that adjoining curves turn in same direction.

Use curved line container with curved line material.'

Use angular material with angular containers.

Impale all materials near one point.

Prune out crossing lines, surplus materials.

Use repetition in line.

Keep main movement in one direction.

So you entered the show!

Understand the schedule

Imagine your interpretation

Practice your arrangement

Obey the rules of good design

Decide on type of arrangement - be original

Use right container and holder

Begin with a skeleton - build toward center of interest

Use odd numbers of flowers - have voids

Use smallest and lightest colored flowers at top and outside

Use heavier and darker flowers toward base

Arrangement should be $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 (minimum) times the width
or height of container

Make arrangement three (3) dimensional (~~height x x weight~~ -
(height - weight - depth)

Use your imagination - have fun!1

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Tips

Harden your plant materials (in warm water) best overnight.
split thick stems.

Light material at top - heavy at bottom.

Soak Ti leaves in water/^{over night} Dry well. To curl, wire back and
attach with scotch tape.

Create a focal point near low center. Line is 1st piece in
arrangement (papyrus).

Leave voids.

Conceal mechanics; stones, shells, epergne,

Main line 2x height or width of container (minimum).

You can go as high as you need to.

Wire will reinforce stems.

Hammer woody stems.

Attach material at ONE point.

Remove excess foliage (especially below water)

Fasten holder to container.

Seal anything that bleeds with heat (hot water, match)

To curl Sanseveria - let lay out of water to wilt.

Seal cut leaves with egg white (after grooming)

Styrofoam (dry arrangements) white or green.

Oasis (soak before using) green or brown.

Felt glued under wooden bases or anything that may scratch

DO'S AND DON'TS OF FLOWER ARRANGING

DO'S

1. Decide on type of arrangement
2. Picture your design in your mind
3. Use the right container
4. Select flowers to go in container
5. Strip off foliage of flowers
6. Use flowers that are hardened
7. Begin with a good flower holder
8. Begin with a skeleton work toward a focal point (center of interest)
9. Try to use odd numbers in arrangement
10. Have voids
11. Use smaller and lighter colored flowers on top and outside.
Use darker and heavier flowers toward base.
12. Arrangement should be 1-1/2 to 2 times the height or the width of the container
13. Keep best and largest flowers for focal point
14. Cut stems on slant and only when sure of desired length
15. Use your imagination
16. Use plant material grown naturally small for miniature arrangements
17. Obey your schedule
18. Use some white flowers in a white container
19. Make arrangement three dimensional - height, width and depth

DON'TS

1. Don't use flowers of one length
2. Don't ignore texture (use fine flowers with fine containers)
(use coarse flowers in coarse containers)
3. Don't spot your flowers in salt and pepper fashion
4. Don't place darker or larger flowers taller unless lower ones are in heavy groups
5. Don't use equal quantities of flowers
6. Don't keep adding pieces that are lying around
7. Don't use wild flowers on conservation list
8. Don't use artificial or dried material unless schedule permits
9. Don't let your mechanics show