

Floral Design Basics: Techniques

Line

visual path the eye is drawn or attracted as it proceeds through the arrangement; curves or directional movement of the arrangement; static/dynamic

Form

three dimensional configuration or shape; describes the length, width and height of an object; also known as shape

Space

total area a person can see; can be broken up by shapes and forms; positive/negative; draws attention to a certain area; emphasize importance

Texture

visual or tactile feel of an item; surface quality; is know as pattern when enlarged

Pattern

created by repeating lines, shapes and forms; also referred to as repetition

Color

light reflected off an object; also referred to as hue

Size

amount of space a component occupies in a composition

Fragrance

appealing odor emanating from a specific item

Balance

equality of distribution throughout an arrangement

Proportion

relationship in units/elements within a design in shape, size, quantity and degree of emphasis

Scale

size of a composition in relation to its surroundings

Harmony

achieved when all the elements, flowers, foliage and container, complement one another; describes tangible and intangible

Floral Design Basics: Techniques

Unity

organization of components into a whole resulting in a cohesive relationship of all parts; oneness of purpose

Dominance

area of authority in a design

Focal Point

location within a design attracting the most attention; center of interest in a design

Emphasis

area which stands out in a design

Accent

enhances or adds interest to a design

Rhythm

visual movement throughout a design; usually achieved by means of repetition

Depth

dimension in a design achieved through the placement of materials; placing materials at different levels in a design

Repetition

repeating “like” material within a composition

Transition

use of material in a composition to connect two things which are opposite; visual movement from gradual degrees of change

Contrast

striking difference between two elements

Variation

used to break the similarity of an arrangement

Opposition

used to create a higher interest

Tension

creating contrast by using two conflicting elements; dynamic aesthetic quality which requires the skillful use of contrast; expresses action or energy; principle of contrast

Floral Design Basics: Techniques

Line Flower

primary flowers used to establish the skeleton outline height or width of an arrangement; stem with several blooms and buds along the stem which create a line

Skeleton of a Design

first stem placements establishing the shape of a design

Mass Flower

usually a single stem with large rounded heads used inside or along the line of the arrangement to fill in; solid head at the end of a stem

Form Flower

used to create a focal point with unusual and distinctive shapes; any flower whose shape would be its most dramatic feature

Filler Flower

type of flower used to complete a design

Foliage

green materials in an arrangement; commonly stems with many leaves

Floral Foam

used as a stem support device

Floral Container

containers which hold floral foam with multiple prongs and have a water reservoir to keep foam saturated

Floral Stem Tape

stretchable tape which adheres to itself; used to lengthen and strengthen stems

Clear Tape

adheres to dry surfaces and can be used to make grids for flowers in vases

Anchor Tape

waterproof, all-purpose tape used to hold floral foam in place

Mechanics

supplies, methods and materials which designers use to place and hold flowers and foliage in an arrangement

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Floral Wire

thin, green wire used to strengthen and lengthen stems

Gauge

unit of measurement for the diameter of wire; as the gauge number increases, the diameter of the wire decreases; for example, 28 gauge wire is finer than 16 gauge wire

Aluminum Wire

strong, malleable wire used to add decoration and support to designs; available in many different colors

Bullion Wire

used to add sparkle and shine to bouquets and arrangements

Piercing Method

corsage wiring technique in which a wire is inserted through the calyx and bent downward parallel to the stem

Hairpin Method

corsage wiring technique in which the wire is shaped into a hairpin or large V-shape

Stitching

method of wiring leaves to strengthen and support individual leaves

Midrib

central vein of the leaf

Feathering

cutting a large flower into several small pieces and rewiring those pieces to create a smaller flower

Sepals

separate part forming the calyx; usually green

Ovary

female reproductive organ in flowers; where seeds are formed and produced

Hook Method

wiring technique in which the wire is inserted through the flower head and a small hook is formed in the wire before it is pulled back into the flower

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Radial Stem Placement

stems originating from a central point