

Basic Design II "At Home With Flowers"

Mono Botanic Designs class notes

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This challenging design type can be a wonderful education as you explore the plant families to see what plants, familiar and unfamiliar, are related.

1. It is a creative design using multiple parts of plants of one family or genus. Parts may be stems, blooms, foliage, roots, fruit, etc.

- Definition of parts: not the whole - a portion (of a thing) - to separate



These photos are a class of mono botanic designs from the recent Garden Club of Georgia Convention flower show 'Flourish' Click on the thumbnails to see a larger image.

- A part may be a leaf, bloom, stem, seed, fruit, roots, pods. etc.

2. The schedule may determine the botanical requirements. For instance, family, genus, or it may indicate that the designer may choose. Plant material selection may be as specific as only one species, cultivar or variety.

- Two or more parts of the family, genus, cultivar or variety **must** be used.

3. Organization of plant material/s is designer's choice based on his/her imagination.

- Non-plant material may be used but if so, there **must** be a greater emphasis on the representative plant material in volume and area than the non-plant material. Non-plant material may supply additional form and interest.

- Weathered wood may be used, but must meet the botanical requirements. In other words, it must be from the related plant group.

- Because of botanical selection, the composition of the parts require imaginative applications and placement to achieve shapes and forms.

Principles of Design

Balance
Rhythm
Dominance
Contrast
Proportion
Scale

Elements of Design

Line
Color
Light
Texture
Pattern
Form
Size
Space

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- Plant material need not be grown by the exhibitor.

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A recent article in the *National Gardener* discussed the difficulty of deciding which plants are in one family since sources differ.

You can choose a single plant.

Examples:

Pinus use the stems, needles and cones of a pine tree

Zea mays (Corn) use the cob, stem, silks, roots of a corn plant

You can choose representatives of a plant family.

Examples:

Plant family: Araceae

Members include: Anthurium

Zantedeschia (Calla Lily)

Philodendron

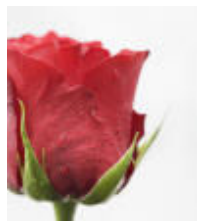
Zamioculcus zamifolia (ZZ plant)

Aglaonema (a common house plant)

Take a look at Rosaceae, the Rose family and you will be surprised by this family tree that includes strawberries!



First Cousins?



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