

Basic Design II

"At Home With Flowers"

PARALLEL class notes, page 1

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A Parallel Design is a Creative Design in which three or more groupings are placed in a strong parallel manner (no crossing lines).

Parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal, or on a diagonal, according to schedule or at discretion of exhibitor, within allotted space.

Schedule may specify type/s of plant materials and other components, except in a class eligible for a Designer's Choice Award.

Principles of Design
Balance
Rhythm
Dominance
Contrast
Proportion
Scale



Betty Cahoon's blue ribbon winner shows how 3 groupings are tied by a common base.



All plant material need not be the same.

Design MUST appear to be one unit. Design may be organized with or without a container. If more than one container, they must be combined so as to appear as one unit.

Units may be of one plant material, a combination, or each unit may be made up of different materials.

An open space or void between each grouping is vital to success.

A connective/s may be used at base of groupings to unify design.

This style differs from a Spatial Thrust Design in which space between the parallel lines creates the thrust. Also, a Spatial Thrust Design MAY only have TWO groupings, whereas a Parallel Design requires THREE or more.

Click on the thumbnails to the left to see more.

Elements of Design
Line
Color
Light
Texture
Pattern
Form
Size
Space

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Plant material that is linear in form will lend itself well to a parallel design. Think of things like:

liatris
iris or yucca leaves, stiff forms work best
grasses of substance
straight branches
foliage and sticks from your own yard - look around!

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Also, some bolder foliage to anchor your design. Houseplants often yield bold and interesting shapes.

This time of year, daffodils are plentiful and redbud branches are coming into bloom.

For containers, gather tall, thin vases, or use frogs in long, low containers. Bring several different containers to experiment with.

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