



## FLORAL ARTISTRY

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.52458/9788196897444.nsp2024.eb.ch-22>  
**Ch.Id.:** -NSP/EB/HHABITS/2024/Ch-22

***About the Author:** Dr. Brigit Varghese holds a PhD in Home Science from Kerala University, currently working as an Assistant Professor at St Joseph's College for Women, Alappuzha. With a strong academic background, including being a first-rank holder in MSc and B.Ed., she has achieved notable recognition throughout the years. Having attended numerous seminars and conferences, she stays updated on the latest advancements in Home Science. She has represented as a Resource person, conducting workshops and webinars on various topics, with a passion for Art and Craft, including expertise in Floral artistry and Clay modelling.*

The creative and professional practice of arranging and styling flowers in aesthetically pleasant and artistic ways is referred to as "floral artistry". It entails selecting, arranging, and displaying flowers in a way that not only showcases their natural beauty but also expresses artistic vision and creativity. It is frequently used in a variety of settings, such as home decor, weddings, official functions, funerals, and flower arrangements for other occasions. Specialized flower arrangers, often known as floral designers or florists, employ their understanding of flowers, colour theory, and design concepts to produce visually appealing and meaningful floral compositions.

### 22.1 IMPORTANCE OF FLOWERS IN INTERIORS

Flowers and other plant materials are always refreshing. In times of happiness, flowers can blaze with glory; in serenity, they can be tranquil, and in times of sadness they can bring solace. Flowers play an important part in all festivities; they have been used as symbols of celebration through the ages by people from every country in the world. Flowers bring natural beauty, colour, and freshness into indoor spaces, enhancing the ambiance and creating a positive atmosphere and feeling of being with nature.

Flower arrangement is the art of arranging flowers and foliage considering the principles of design, proportion, balance, emphasis, rhythm, and harmony. Creating an unusual eye-catching display adds a touch of glamour to any

important event. In depth study of flower arrangement will provide essential knowledge and techniques to create stunning floral compositions that reflect one's individuality.

## **22.2 ELEMENTS OF ART IN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT**

### **22.2.1 Colour**

Colour is to the flower arranger what the palette is to the artist. Colour is probably the only element of flower arranging that some people ever notice, as it is more important to them than texture and shape. Colour does give the greatest pleasure, and the endless combinations and contrasts can be very stimulating and even change the mood of the room. Texture and lighting in the room has a considerable effect on colour. Keep the colour scheme simple using one or at the most two toning colours, adding to the impact of the arrangement.

- i. Colours should be arranged such that light is at the top and dark at the bottom. Dark coloured flowers will look best at the bottom of the arrangement as these will give a solid and well-balanced foundation to the arrangement.
- ii. Colours should complement each other and fit the intended theme or mood of the arrangement.

Flower arrangement should have one dominating colour or two or more related colours. While following polychromatic colouring, warm colours should be combined and cool ones together. So that no colour in particular leaps out from others. Colours also can create warmth, as in the case of reds and oranges, or coolness, as in the case of blues and greens. Use colour imaginatively to produce sensitive designs.

### **22.2.2 Line and Form**

The lines and forms that the arrangement's components produce should be intentional and aesthetically pleasing. This involves considering the angles, curves, and overall shape of the arrangement. Depending on the desired impact, lines can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or even curved. Each shape creates different effects and feelings. Plant materials have a great variety of shapes but it can be helpful to fit them into broad categories. Round shapes, for example, are common dahlia, rose, carnation, chrysanthemum, and many other flowers are essentially rounded in form. They can be used either as single or as massed elements in an arrangement.

### **22.2.3 Texture**

Texture refers to the surface quality of flowers and foliage. Texture blending gives depth and appeal to an arrangement. The texture is an important element in any flower arrangement, so it pays to use plant material (dried or artificial) with a variety of textural qualities: glossy or matt, smooth or spiky, soft or hard. Similarly, look for contrasts in the form of flowers with simple large papery petals with those with small florets to add variety to the display. For instance, contrasting glossy, smooth petals with gritty, textural leaves can add interest to the eye.

### **22.2.4 Space**

Space between the flowers and within the outline of a design is an important element. In free-form arrangements, space is a particularly positive and integral design element. The space around an arrangement is also

significant. The size and shape of an arrangement are dictated by the space available in the final setting. The space within and around the arrangement should influence the design from the very start and this is closely related to the scale of the setting and the plant materials. Do not try to fill every single gap as the aesthetic effect will be spoiled if it is too tightly packed.

## **22.3 PRINCIPLES OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT**

Flower arrangement is both an art and a skill that involves creating visually pleasing compositions using various elements like flowers, foliage, containers, and accessories according to design principles. The fundamental principles of flower arranging serve as the process' guiding principles enabling the creation of exquisite floral arrangements.

### **22.3.1 Balance**

In flower arrangement balance or stability is both visual and physical. The physical balance is important to keep the arrangement secure and stable and the visual balance of the overall shape and style of the arrangement is important for overall appearance. For Proper balance, the heaviest flower or plant material, the biggest flowers should be placed in the centre of the arrangement, closest to the line rising upward from the centre of the vase. An appealing, well-balanced design should ideally include both buds and open flowers.

Formal or Symmetrical balance refers to an arrangement where both sides are mirror images of one another. In formal balance size, height, form, and colour of the flower arrangement on both sides of the centre of the container will be similar. Informal or asymmetrical balance refers to an arrangement that is balanced but not identical on both sides.

### **22.3.2 Scale and Proportion**

A well-balanced arrangement requires the right scale and proportion. Scale is dictated by the relative sizes of every component of the arrangement. This is the size relationship of various components of an arrangement - flowers, foliage, and containers and also their relationship to the size and furnishing of the room in which the arrangement is to be placed. The arrangement should retain harmony with its surroundings and be scaled appropriately for the space it will occupy.

For proper proportion always retain a balance between the container and its content. A traditional mass arrangement, for example, should be in the proportion of one-third container to two-thirds flowers. The general rule of flower arrangement is one of thirds. The container is normally 1/3rd of the overall height of the arrangement. But with tall arrangements, a half rule seems to work more effectively. A tall vertical arrangement should stand at least as high as the length of the container. High and tall arrangements are attractive against tall areas or corners. Medium to tall container- Flowers should be 1 1/2 times the height of the container. However, the place where the arrangement is going to be used will require different heights. While using low containers add height and width of the container to decide the length of the longest component in the arrangement. Horizontal arrangement- The width of the arrangement should be 1 1/2 times the width of the low vase used.

### **22.3.3 Harmony**

Harmony is an undefinable principle that lifts an arrangement out of the ordinary. Harmony is largely aesthetic. Lack of scale or proportion creates discord. Harmony is the oneness of spirit, mood, theme, and purpose which completes "the picture". Harmony of colour, texture, shape, style, idea, and occasion is significant to create the overall appeal. The idea of unity is to make sure that every component of the arrangement functions harmoniously.

### **22.3.4 Emphasis**

Emphasis is the centre of interest and the point to which the eye is attracted first and from which it radiates outwards over the whole of the design. Focal Points and movement in the design of flower arrangements are significant in emphasis. The focal point is typically the most significant or visually striking element in the composition. A focal point or the point from which all elements radiate, can be achieved by the use of colour, the size of the flower or flowers, a group of flowers, foliage, a ribbon bow, a non-floral accessory, etc. Emphasis is generally on the centre of the arrangement and there are changes based on the shape of the arrangement. It is here the flowers used are the darkest the heaviest and the stems shortest.

### **22.3.5 Rhythm or visual movement**

Rhythm in flower arranging refers to the visual motion and flow through the arrangement. The careful positioning of components to direct the viewer's eye across the composition is necessary to create rhythm. A sense of rhythm can be created through repeating patterns, such as alternating flowers or foliage, gradation or progression of size, grading and blending of colours, and balancing and counter-balancing of curves and radiation. S or C shape arrangement in which stems, flowers, and leaves which is having a natural curve will produce curve linear rhythm. Rhythm contributes to the sense of movement in floral designs.

Principles are guidelines, and there is room for creativity and personal expression in flower arranging. Experimenting with different combinations and styles can lead to unique and beautiful arrangements.

## **22.4 MATERIALS USED IN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT**

Flowers and foliage, Containers, Stem holders, scissors/knives and wires are the basic materials needed for creating beautiful arrangements.

### **22.4.1 Types of Flowers and foliage used in Flower Arrangement**

Any kind of flowers and foliage, fresh, dry, or artificial ones can be used in this art. Seasonal fresh flowers give a large variety of choice in all kinds of arrangement. Dry flowers and foliage can be collected, bought and preserved. Such dry materials are handy where flowers are not easily available and do not need much care and attention, once the arrangement is made. Artificial flowers are made of crepe paper, organdie, satin and velvet fabrics, plastics and so on are also can be used skillfully. But these should resemble the natural flowers otherwise these should be avoided. Foliage plays a profoundly significant role in floral arrangements. There are so many different shades to choose and

shapes vary enormously. Not necessarily leaves of the same plant as flowers be used, but other leaves which will harmonize with the character of the flowers can be used.

#### 22.4.2 Containers Aids and Accessories

- **Containers:** For a flower arranger, a container can encompass anything that can retain an adequate amount of water for the flowers to nourish themselves temporarily. Selection of a suitable container for flower arrangements is of utmost importance as the combination of flowers and container is crucial to the success of the arrangement. It is important to ensure that the style, colour, shape, size and texture harmonize with those of the flowers a container holds. Choose a container that will complement both flowers and foliage, and the room. Consider the container and flowers as one piece and work accordingly for harmony in floral design. While selecting container, take into account the specific theme or occasion for the flower arrangement, colour, size and shape, weight and stability, material of which the container is made, Cost and reusability
- To achieve the right look, need to match the shape, colour and form of the container to that of the ingredients it contains. Simplicity is the keynote. By carefully considering these factors, you can select the most appropriate containers to enhance the beauty and functionality of the flower arrangements.
- **Accessories:** Accessories like nets, ribbons, Pebbles, shells etc add beauty to the arrangement and give the arrangement a professional finish. Plastic and fibreglass pillars are also extremely useful, although it is even more important that these should be adequately weighted to prevent accidents.

#### Essential Tools and Materials used in Flower Arrangement

- i. **Preservatives:** Flower food or preservatives can help keep fresh flowers looking vibrant for longer.
- ii. **Wire netting** is essential for successful flower arrangements, as it holds the flowers in position. Wire netting comprising of galvanized chicken netting is suitable for an average size arrangement. It is easy to cut and crumple into the required shape.
- iii. **Florist's tape:** Florist's tape, available in either green or white, is used to secure raised blocks of floral foam to containers.
- iv. **Floral Wire:** Floral wire comes in different gauges and is used to reinforce stems, create loops, or add decorative elements.
- v. **Wire Cutters:** These are handy for cutting the floral wire or other decorative elements.
- vi. **Pruning Shears or Floral Scissors/ Knife:** These are essential for cutting and trimming flowers and foliage. Sharp, clean cuts help extend the life of flowers. It is much easier the work with the proper kind of scissors and Knife
- vii. **Flower Holders:** Florists' tubes, Pin holders and Floral foam are mainly using to fix the flowers and folliages in position. Floral foam or Oasis is very light a plastic foam which can be broken up and placed in the container.

Rather like a sponge, green foam absorbs water, but remains firm enough to allow stems and branches to be pushed into it, and then holds them in place while supplying them with water.

## **22.5 FLORISTRY TECHNIQUES AND EASY IDEAS FOR FRESH AND LASTING ARRANGEMENTS**

### **22.5.1 Prolonging the life of flowers**

Flowers are typically sourced from either a florist's shop, a garden, or both. Regardless of their origin, they require a certain level of care and attention before being arranged, and the process is commonly referred to as conditioning. When fresh flowers are harvested, cared for, and conditioned properly, they will maintain their beauty and freshness for a significantly extended period. By following these tips and providing the right care, you can enjoy your fresh flower arrangement for an extended period

- A fully matured flower does not have as long a vase life as a younger bud or flower. This should be taken into consideration when harvesting/selecting flowers for arrangement.
- The best results are obtained by cutting flowers in the evening or early in the morning. At these times they are crisp and filled with moisture.
- Using good flower scissors, pruning knives or secateurs will ensure that you leave a clean cut, the stem will not be torn and damaged.
- Fresh flowers bought from the market should be carried in wet newspaper and put into polythene bags. Stems of these flowers should be cut again at home and immersed in a bucket of water.
- Make clean slanting cuts (45° angle) causing the least damage or bruising to the little ducts in the stem which carry water to the blooms or leaves. Slanting cuts help to expose more surface area for water suction.
- Cut the last couple of centimeters off the base of the hollow stems to prevent airlocks.
- Flowers with hollow stems need to be left in a bucket of fresh cold water for at least an hour. This allows the stems to refill with water.
- Flowers with tough, woody stems should have the last couple of centimeters slit to allow water to enter or crushed with a hammer. Hammering woody stems ensures that they will take up sufficient water. Before arrangement again cut the stem for secure placement.
- Some plant material seems to benefit enormously from the so-called "boiling- water treatment". Fill an old can or pot with boiling water to a depth of about 2.5cm (1in), and place the material to be conditioned (having first protected it with a cloth or paper) into the water. Wait for just under a minute, then place in cool water for at least two hours.
- To open the partly open flower, blow vigorously, never use your fingers to open it.

- Spraying water will prolong the life of the arrangement.
- Overcrowding can lead to damaged petals and hinder air circulation, so arrange the flowers with enough space between them.
- Use a clean vase or container. Residue from previous arrangements can harbor bacteria that shorten the lifespan of fresh flowers. The use of aluminum containers is not advisable.
- Many flowers benefit from the addition of a little sugar to the water.
- Either Listerine, Ammonia, Charcoal, or Camphor, added in small amounts slows down the growth of bacteria thus prolonging the life of the flowers.
- Keep the arrangement away from ripening fruit, as it emits ethylene gas, which can accelerate the aging process of flowers.
- Keep the arrangement in a cool spot, away from direct sunlight and sources of heat. Extreme temperatures can wilt flowers quickly.

### **22.5.2 Transporting Flowers**

Travelling with flowers is an art in itself. Some journeys can be quite lengthy, so it's essential to prepare the flowers properly. So condition the flowers in the normal way and then seal them in foil or polythene before gently placing them in a refrigerator set at 5.5°C (42°F) to maintain their freshness. The large flower boxes have small holes in the sides are indispensable for transporting flowers. To prepare the box, line it with a thin polythene sheet that covers both the base and the sides.

## **22.6 LEADING STYLES IN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT**

Exploring the world of floral design unveils four distinct styles each with its own unique character and aesthetic appeal. These styles include the Traditional Style, Japanese Style, Modern Style, and Abstract Style. Understanding the essence and beauty of each style helps to develop the talent of those who work with flowers, enabling them to create stunning arrangements customized to the particular event and desired mood.

### **22.6.1 Traditional Style**

Traditional style flower arrangements are elegant and symmetrical, with a strong emphasis on balance and form. They often have a central focal point with an equal distribution of flowers and foliage on either side and are frequently shaped like triangles or ovals. Classic flowers like roses, tulips, lilies, and carnations are commonly used, and the arrangements are typically placed in structured containers like urns, vases, or baskets. Traditional arrangements tend to avoid excessive embellishments and convey a sense of tradition and decorum. In earlier centuries, traditional floral arrangements were often created by simply tying together a bunch of flowers and inserting them into a vase. This type of arrangement is known as a mass arrangement, and it typically features a variety of flowers, colours, and sizes. Mass arrangements may be pyramidal, round, or oval in shape, and they often have large

blooms and deep hues concentrated in the center. Fine flowers and pale colours are used to outline the basic shape of the design.

### 22.6.2 Oriental Style (Japanese Flower Arrangement)

Japanese style flower arranging is also known as Oriental style. Ikebana is the general term used for the Japanese art of flower arranging, which has a centuries-long history and emphasizes minimalism, balance, and harmony with nature. It was introduced to Japan in the 6th century by Chinese Buddhist missionaries, and initially involved using naturally occurring branches of blossoming trees or foliage without any bending or cutting. Ikebana underwent various stages of artificiality and unnatural treatments during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries before emerging in its purest form at the end of the seventeenth century adopting the name IKEBANA word meaning living flower arrangement. All Ikebana arrangements are based on a trineal group, consisting of the Shin (heaven), Soe (man), and Hikae (earth).

**Table 1: Components in Japanese Flower Arrangement**

Components	Representation	Measurement	Angle	Arrangement
SHIN	Heaven	Width of the container + the depth of the container +1/2 of the measurement.	15 <sup>0</sup> Practically upright	Impaled on the back of the pin holder. It should slope slightly forward. Set to one side or other of the container but never in the center.
SOE	Mankind	Three quarters the length of the Shin.	45 <sup>0</sup> vertical	Set in the middle of the holder.
HIKAE	Earth	Three quarters the length of the Soe.	75 <sup>0</sup> vertical	
JUSHIS	Additions to the main lines and may consist of either flowers or foliage placed in positions. Not exceed the size of the Shin.			

- The **Shin**, representing **Heaven**, is the longest and most important line in an Ikebana arrangement, regardless of its placement. It is typically a carefully pruned branch that is cut to measure the width of the container plus its depth, plus half of that amount again. If the base of the container is an integral part of the design, it should also be included in this measurement. The Shin is placed at a 10-degree angle off vertical, slightly leaning forward, and impaled on the back of the kenzan, which is set to one side of the container, not in the center.
- The **Soe**, representing **Mankind**, is also chosen for its lovely curve. It is cut to three-quarters the length of the Shin and placed at a 45-degree angle off vertical in the middle of the kenzan.
- The Shin and Soe are the two main elements of an Ikebana arrangement, and their placement is essential to creating a balanced and harmonious design.

- The **Hikae**, representing **Earth**, is the shortest stem. It is cut to three-quarters the length of the Soe and placed at a 75-degree angle off vertical, tilted forward and outwards with a graceful curve. The tip of the Hikae should preferably be tilted upwards, suggesting happiness and the curve of a smiling mouth.
- The **Jushis** are additions to the three main lines (Shin, Soe, and Hikae) and may consist of either flowers or foliage. The length does not exceed the size of the Shin.

Japanese-style flower arrangements are typically placed in a low, flat container with a pin holder (kenzan) to secure the flowers. The whole container may be filled with water, or the stems may be placed on an attractive base. Ikebana is a beautiful and meaningful art form that celebrates the beauty of nature and simplicity. It is a unique expression of Japanese culture and values. Japanese style is informal, and always uses an odd number of flowers or branches such as 3, 5, 7, 9, etc.

**Japanese Flower Arrangements:** There are several distinct styles and schools within Ikebana, each with its principles, characteristics, philosophy, techniques, and aesthetic principles. Practitioners often choose a particular style based on their personal preferences and artistic vision. Here is the description of some prominent types:

- Rikka:** Rikka (standing flowers) is the oldest and most formal style of Ikebana. It is highly conventionalized and aims to replicate landscapes in nature, with towering arrangements that symbolize mountains, waterfalls, and other natural elements. Rikka arrangements use a variety of branches and flowers to create majestic and symbolic compositions.
- Shoka:** Shoka is a simplified version of the Rikka style of Ikebana, focusing on three main elements: heaven, earth, and humanity. Shoka arrangements are typically more compact and emphasize balance and harmony. They are triangular in shape, based on three main lines. Thus the arrangement represents the whole universe. Shoka is a simple and elegant style of Ikebana that focuses on balance and harmony.
- Sogetsu Ikebana:** Sogetsu Ikebana is a contemporary style of Ikebana that allows for more freedom and creativity than traditional styles. It encourages the use of unconventional materials and shapes, beyond traditional flowers and branches. This may include unconventional elements like metal, plastic, paper, or even found objects. Sogetsu Ikebana is adaptable to modern settings and adheres to certain fundamental principles of balance and harmony. It often incorporates seasonal elements, with practitioners aiming to capture the essence of the current season in their arrangements.
- Moribana Ikebana:** Moribana is derived from the word moru "to heap up" and hana "flowers" and hence means "heaped up flowers". Moribana is a style of Ikebana that arranges flowers in shallow, flat containers called "suiban" or "moribana containers, allowing for easy placement and arrangement of flowers and other elements. It allows for a more flexible and dynamic approach to composition and emphasizes balance and harmony in a compact space.
- Morimono:** The word is obtained from moru-to heap up and mono- things, hence "heaped up things". Morimono is a unique and creative style of Japanese flower arrangement, or Ikebana, that goes beyond traditional floral compositions by incorporating non-floral materials, such as fruits, vegetables, and other natural or man-made

objects. This allows for endless creative possibilities and a balance between the natural and non-natural world. Morimono arrangements strive to achieve a balance between natural and non-natural elements.

- vi. **Jiyuka Ikebana (Freeform Ikebana):** Jiyuka is a modern and non-traditional approach that encourages creative expression and experimentation. Practitioners have more freedom to design arrangements based on personal inspiration, incorporating elements like space and color to create unique compositions.
- vii. **Nageire Ikebana:** The term Nageire translates to "thrown-in," or "cast-in," which involves inserting flowers and branches into a tall slender container often with a narrow mouth. These containers are designed to support and showcase the natural growth and movement of plant materials. They avoid excessive embellishments or complex designs. Nageire arrangements typically feature three main elements Shin, Soe, and Hikae.
- viii. **Uki-bana (Floating):** Uki-bana, which translates to "floating flower arrangement," is a type of Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) that entails placing flowers and other natural elements in water-filled vessels. "UKI" is Japanese for "float." In uki-bana, different plant materials are carefully chosen and placed to float on the water's surface, including flowers, leaves, and occasionally even tiny branches or petals.

### **22.6.3 Modern Style**

Modern style is a combination of traditional and oriental styles. The use of few plant materials, asymmetrical balance, and abstract compositions are prominent in contemporary arrangements in this fashion. Modern floral designs frequently emphasize simplicity and clear lines while adhering to minimalist ideals. They might utilize fewer kinds of flowers and greenery, emphasizing the beauty of each component individually. In a modern arrangement, the container choice can have a big impact on the overall look. Another characteristic of contemporary arrangements is textural diversity. Drift wood, sculptures, crystals, stones, and pebbles are used as accessories. The modern style has no fixed rules and there is freedom to use unconventional materials and innovative techniques.

### **22.6.4 Abstract Style**

Abstract floral arrangements, often referred to as abstract floral art, depart from the traditional approach to flower arranging by focusing on creative expression, artistic interpretation, and the use of flowers and other botanical elements as artistic mediums. Line, shape, form, color, and texture are more important as design components in abstract floral arrangements than the names of the individual flowers. The overall aesthetic impact is most important.

There is more room for individual expression in this fashion. In this style, the arranger focuses on a certain topic and typically makes the most of spectacular, dramatic plant forms, frequently in straightforward yet eye-catching containers.

## 22.7 STEP-BY-STEP ARRANGEMENT GUIDE FOR ALL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Consider the occasion, study the location, and the message that want to convey with the arrangement. Plan the design, size, variety, and colour of the flowers needed to use in the arrangement.
2. Choose Flowers and foliage
3. Select a variety of flowers and foliage that complement each other in terms of color, texture, and size.
4. Prepare the Materials
5. Gather all the necessary materials and tools, including the vase, floral foam, shears, tape, water, and decorative elements that want to incorporate into the arrangement.
6. Select and Prepare the Container
7. Select a proportionate container and prepare the container with a flower holder to securely place the flowers
8. Condition the Flowers
9. Condition flowers and foliage well to increase the life span of the arrangement
10. Create the Shape
11. Create a shape with foliage in case of facing arrangements and with flowers in case of all other arrangements. This is not a thumb rule, the convenience and comfort of the florist is to be considered.
12. Initially identify the focal point according to the shape of the arrangement, to which the eye should be drawn. Place the best blooms at this place.
13. Create an outline with foliage. This will help to determine the size and shape of the arrangement. Then build up the arrangement by adding more foliage and flowers.
14. Add Secondary Flowers and foliage to finish the arrangement. Pay attention to colour distribution and the overall shape. Delicate and fine-textured flowers should not be mixed with heavy coarse ones. Colours should be arranged such that-light at the top and dark at the bottom. If various shades of one colour are available, then graduate them.
15. Adjust and Fine-Tune
16. Step back and assess your arrangement from different angles. Make any necessary adjustments to achieve the desired shape and balance. If required trim any excess stem length.
17. If desired, incorporate decorative elements like ribbon or additional foliage to enhance the arrangement's aesthetic appeal.
18. Place the flower arrangement in a cool location away from direct sunlight. Ensure the water level is maintained, changing it every few days to keep the flowers fresh.

## **22.8 BASIC SHAPES IN FLOWER ARRANGEMENT**

The design of an arrangement is the result of a thought-out plan. Having a general design in mind before beginning a flower arrangement will help to ensure the suitability and beauty of the result. Each shape in the flower arrangement conveys its unique beauty and message. All arrangements aside from oriental and abstract tend to adopt one of the shapes or the other. The shapes can be circular, fan-shaped, L- or S-shaped, crescent-shaped, horizontal, triangular, vertical, or diagonal. Different facing and line arrangements and their shape building are provided in this section.

### **22.8.1 Facing Arrangements**

Flower arrangements, where the back of the arrangement cannot be seen are known as facing, or flat-backed, arrangements. Facing arrangements probably look their best when they are placed against a wall or in front of a mirror. Facing arrangements saves the number of flowers needed, as people can view the display from one side. To arrange a flat-backed flower display it is easiest to start with foliage first. Then fill in with more foliage towards the front, quite short and close to the vase, and finally arrange the flowers.

#### **1. Fan Shaped Arrangement**

Fan Shaped Arrangement is one side-facing arrangement. The foliage starts approximately 3 quarters of the way back in the bowl. Create a basic outline of height and width with foliage. Start by selecting a central flower or focal point for the arrangement. This flower should be slightly taller than the rest and placed in the center of the container. This will serve as the top point of your fan shape. Arrange the remaining flowers and foliage in a semi-circular or fan-shaped pattern, radiating out from the central focal point. Place taller flowers toward the center and shorter ones toward the edges. This creates a visually pleasing fan effect.

#### **2. Triangular Arrangement**

Typical traditional arrangement where there is a clear triangular outline but flowers and foliage are closely packaged within this, leaving little internal space. The triangular shape may be equally balanced on each side, or asymmetrical, with one point of the triangle extending further than the others. A variety of size, shape, and texture in the flowers is used. Stems radiate from a central point, usually with paler and smaller flowers at the outer edges graduating to larger, darkest, and heaviest blooms at the centre, the point of focal interest. The height of the arrangement should be about one-and-a-half times the height or width of the container (whichever is the greater) and the sides about two-thirds of this length. One can avoid mathematical precision, but a mathematical and aesthetical eye is significant in flower arrangement.

### **22.8.2 Line Arrangements**

The element of line is most important in Line arrangement. Some popular shapes are -the vertical, horizontal, diagonal, crescent, triangle, pyramid, circle, etc. Combination of line and mass arrangement in which composition of the best features of line and mass type can be observed. Design is emphasized in these arrangements and they are usually stylised.

1. **Vertical Flower Arrangement:** The element of line and height is emphasized in this arrangement. This is often used when there is limited display space. Very little amount of plant material is used to bring out the beauty. Vertical arrangements have a strong upward movement and may take the form of a tall, narrow triangle or a simple line of flowers. A tall vertical arrangement should stand at least as high as the length of the container. The stems of the vertical arrangement originate from the central point. This is other wise called torch arrangement.

Usually, tall plant materials are used for this shape. This arrangement requires few materials and they are almost entirely upright. All the flowers and foliage used surge upward following, the directions of the main stem. They must all incline at slight angles the taller ones leaning backward very slightly to preserve visual and actual balance. Stems of medium length should be placed more or less upright, whereas shorter stems placed to the front of the penholder should lean forward and sideways.

2. **Horizontal Arrangement:** In horizontal arrangement stems radiate in all directions from the centre of the arrangement. This is a symmetrical composition and hence attractive from every angle. Often used for table or window sill decoration. The focal point is towards the centre and stems radiate in all directions from this area. The container selected should be flat to make a low arrangement.

After creating the base with foliage can add foliage to build up the shape. The height of the arrangement will be the same or a little bit shorter than the width. Arrange the flowers in the same way the leaves were arranged. allowing the outer flowers to trail on the table and hide all the mechanics. The focal point is in the centre so use large flowers in the centre. Use one or two soft surtle colours to maintain the colour balance and it will look gorgeous.

3. **Crescent or C-shape:** Crescent is a part of the circle. The upper, lower, or side half of the circle can be selected. The focal point is created at the base of the main stem. When we select the side circle, it becomes asymmetrical. The focal point being created at the base of the main stem. As with the traditional triangular arrangement, increasing weight and darker colour towards the center of the design gives a balanced and rhythmic effect.
4. For the preparation of the Crescent arrangement, select quiet flexible, and pliable stems that permit manipulation to create the shape. Place the stems horizontally in a bucket or tie and bend the stems in the required shape. Never choose the stems that have bold upright movement. So the selection of the right flowers and foliage is very important in creating the shape of this arrangement. The crescent may be symmetrical or asymmetrical, the focal point being created at the base of the main stems.
5. **Hogarth Curve or S-Curve:** This is essentially a line arrangement that creates the 'S' bend. The rhythmic line that distinguishes the Hogarth curve is easy to achieve with pliable stems or curved branches using flowers to fill in at the centre and just above and below the rim of the tall container the 'S' curve must broaden out in the centre serving the dual purpose of giving depth and dimension, to the design and effectively connecting the pin holder and wire used.

6. **The Diagonal Shape:** The success of this arrangement lies in the selection of material. For this, you need a stem that has a graceful fall or bend and somewhat a stiffer branch, which will be used to offset it. Tall containers are usually best. The first step is to cut to twice the height of the container and set a graceful slope. The second stem selected for its inbuilt curve is positioned with a downward and forward sweep to complete the diagonal. Then fill in the design with flowers and foliage in the centre.
7. **Round-Shaped Arrangement:** All-round arrangements look equally good from any angle. They are particularly suitable for free-standing tables such as dining tables or coffee tables, or for any location where the vase is not positioned close to a wall. The best containers for all-around creations are cylindrical and round-topped ones. Narrow vases are not so well suited to this type of arrangement. The correct height of an all-round arrangement depends on the situation. For instance, a low arrangement is best in the centre of a dining table, so that it does not block the view of guests across the table. However, for a wide side table or to divide a room, a much taller all-round arrangement will be most attractive. When making a table centerpiece, ideal to use a revolving platter, So that we can keep turning the arrangement, ensuring it looks good when seen from all sides.

### **22.8.3 Mass Arrangements**

Mass type is a full-bodied composition of a large amount of plant material. These may be compact, semi-compact airy, natural, or stylised. Large amounts of flowers are required for this arrangement. Grouping of flowers and their colours is more important. This type of arrangement is used in huge palatial rooms or big formal parties.

### **22.8.4 Combination of Line and Mass Arrangement**

This is of American origin. Here the best features of mass arrangement are combined with the best features of line arrangement. This arrangement is charming and interesting as it is composed of good points of two types of flower arrangements. Be careful that the mass arrangement should not dominate the line arrangement. The focal point weight at the foundation of the flower arrangement.

### **22.8.5 Modern or Free-Form Designs**

Stems radiate from a central point and the outline is strong and interesting, giving a sculptured effect. The effectiveness of the design often relies on contrasts of texture, form, and colour. These designs are much influenced by Oriental styling in the economy of material and use of space.

### **22.8.6 Miniature Arrangement**

Miniature flower arrangement entails building miniature compositions out of tiny flowers, leaves, and containers. Small size and an overall design that fits inside a small container or vase are characteristics of miniature flower arrangements. Miniature flower arrangements are frequently used as window sill decorations, tabletop accents, and displays for dollhouses and small worlds. They require precision, creativity, and a keen eye for detail.

## **22.9 SPECIAL OCCASIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

### **22.9.1 Topiary with Flower Garlands**

Topiary is the art and practice of shaping and trimming plants, trees, and shrubs into decorative shapes, frequently figurative or geometric. Topiary can be used in countless ways as party decor, especially when coupled with garlands of flowers and leaves. The topiary's deep green foliage contrasts beautifully with the intricate designs of the garlands

### **22.9.2 Pew-End Designs**

"Pew End Design" refers to floral arrangements that are positioned at the ends of church pews or rows of seats during weddings or other religious ceremonies. These flower arrangements can offer a sense of elegance and color to the environment and are frequently used to decorate churches or other ceremony locations. The focal point of pew end arrangements is fresh flowers. Ivy, eucalyptus, or ferns are a few examples of greenery that can be added to complement flowers and give an arrangement more texture and dimension. The pew-end arrangements must not be too large to ensure secure disposition. They can be round, cascading, or designed in other shapes to suit the decor theme. A plastic holder containing floral foam is a proprietary pew-end mechanic that can easily be fitted over the pew and it is reusable. To attach the arrangements to the pews, clips, hooks, or ribbons are often used. To give a final touch and match the event's general color scheme, many pew-end designs use ribbons, bows, or other ornamentations.

### **22.9.3 Pillar Arrangements**

Pillar arrangements of flowers, which are frequently utilized as ornamental accents for a variety of events and occasions. Think about the pillars or columns where the arrangements will be put, including their size and shape. The floral arrangements' proper size and style will be determined by this. Make sure the floral arrangements' colour and design complement the occasion's theme and colour scheme. Make sure the arrangement's height is suitable for the area and doesn't restrict sightlines or movement. Choose a design theme for the pillar arrangements. Traditional, contemporary, romantic, rustic, or themed arrangements. Depending on the occasion and the surroundings, the arrangements may be spherical, cascading, linear, or have various shapes. Make sure the containers or other support structures are tightly fastened to the pillars, especially if the arrangements will be outdoors and subject to wind.

### **22.9.4 Pedestal Arrangements**

A floral decoration known as a pedestal arrangement is often set on a tall stand or pedestal and is frequently used for special occasions and events. These arrangements are intended to enhance a space with elegance, height, and a focal point. Select a pedestal or stand that blends in with the event's overall theme and decor. Pedestals can be plain or ornamental and come in a variety of materials, such as metal, wood, and acrylic. When determining the pedestal's height and size, keep in mind the room or area where the arrangement will be presented. Establish the arrangement's design aesthetic. Different design styles, such as conventional, contemporary, cascade, or structural, are available for pedestal arrangements. Depending on the desired aesthetic, the arrangement's shape can also change, such as round, oval, or asymmetrical. Select a vase or container that will fit firmly on the pedestal. For a refined

appearance, the container can be concealed by plants or covered with fabric or ornamental materials. Secure the arrangement to the pedestal to prevent it from toppling over, especially if it's outdoors or in a high-traffic area.

### **22.9.5 Floral Decor in Marquee Poles**

Marquees are a sort of temporary or semi-permanent building used for a variety of events and purposes, particularly outdoor events. Marquee poles are vertical supports used in the construction of a marquee. Marquee poles are essential for supporting and stabilizing the framework. Any outdoor gathering or wedding may be made more elegant and beautiful by dressing up marquee poles with flowers. Top, midway down, or close to the base of the poles are typical placements. Select the proper containers or fasteners to secure the flowers to the poles. Floral foam, zip ties, wire, and clips are available options. Verify the security of the containers or devices to make sure they won't harm the marquee. Make vertical or cascading groupings that resemble wreaths or the poles' lines. To keep the arrangements from swinging too much, use sturdy containers or properly tie them. Consider adding subtle lighting to highlight the floral decorations on the marquee poles, especially for evening or nighttime events.

### **22.9.6 Floral Garlands**

Floral garlands are decorative arrangements made of fresh or artificial flowers, foliage, and other natural materials that are commonly used to adorn various spaces and objects for special occasions or as decorative elements in home and event decor. Fresh flowers, foliage (such as leaves, vines, or ferns), and other organic components like berries, herbs, or pinecones are frequently used to create floral garlands. To improve their beauty, certain garlands may also include artificial components like ribbon, fabric, or beads. Weddings, bridal showers, parties, ceremonies, festivals, and home décor are just a few occasions and places when floral garlands are used. They can be draped or hung in numerous ways to enhance the ambiance of an event space or to beautify architectural features like mantels, staircases, archways, tables, and more.

**There are various floral garlands, each with a distinct design and use. Typical types include:**

- Garland in the shape of a wreath is frequently used as wall or door décor.
- Table garland: Long, straight garlands intended to serve as table runners around the middle of tables.
- Swag Garland: Curved or draped garlands that enhance the aesthetics of doors or arches.
- Chair Garland: Garlands are made to decorate chairs' backs for special occasions like weddings.
- A flower crown is a sort of headdress that is frequently used at weddings and festivals. Each stem of a floral garland can be wired or tied together by hand.
- It's crucial to make a garland with the flowers and greenery firmly fastened to the base, frequently using florist wire.

## **22.10 BOUQUET MAKING**

Flowers make an excellent present for every occasion. A flower bouquet is a collection of flowers in a creative arrangement. Whether a pretty posy of flowers from the garden or assembled by a florist or an extravagant bouquet, a gift of flowers always gives immense pleasure. Whether they contain one sort of flower or a pretty mix of flowers and foliage, bouquets are usually simple to make and always a delight to receive.

Bear in mind the language of flowers and consider carefully the choice of flowers, making sure that the colours combine well, and include some scented flowers to make it even more pleasurable to receive. Always consider the character of the recipient, the nature of the occasion, budget, theme, and personal preferences.

It has become a customary gesture to bring or present flowers on various occasions like official meetings, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, funerals, and more. A wedding bouquet is an idea that was brought up years ago and this became a tradition. Bringing flowers to events is a thoughtful gesture that can express a variety of feelings and emotions. It adds beauty, improves the atmosphere, and is strongly ingrained in social and cultural traditions. The versatile and treasured gift of a bouquet can make every occasion more joyful.

### **22.10.1 Materials for Bouquet Making**

The essential materials required to make a bouquet include flowers, foliage, floral foam or holder, bouquet handle, bouquet collar, floral tape, sharp floral shears or scissors, ribbon or twine, optional accessories like decorative pins, beads, and other embellishments to enhance the bouquet's appearance.

The very simplest kind of flower arrangement is the bunch. There are two sorts of "arranged" bunches: the posy in which the flowers are arranged circularly, to be seen from all sides; and the bouquet, in which the flowers are set out in a fan shape and designed to be seen only from the front. For such arrangements use line flowers. Line flowers are tall and give your bouquet height width and a balanced look. Most line flowers have buds growing up a centre stalk. Examples of line flowers are gladiolus, snapdragon, delphinium, tuberose, and veronica.

Mass flowers will give the bouquet weight or mass and are generally round and fill-flared. Sometimes they are referred to as face flowers. Most mass flowers with only one flower on the end of the stem. Examples of mass flowers are roses, sunflowers, lilies, carnations, gerberas daffodils, tulips, iris, foesia, protea, and chrysanthemums.

Grass, Eucalyptus, Ferns, Asparagus, Gypsophila, and baby's breath were used as fillers. Fillers provide a finished elegant look to the bouquet.

### **22.10.2 Steps in Making a Posy Bouquet**

- i. Cut the flower stems at an angle before arranging the bouquet. The flowers are better able to absorb water and retain their freshness when the stems are cut at an angle. The lower half of the stems should be cleared of any extra leaves or thorns.

- ii. Choose a few bigger or more noticeable flowers to act as the bouquet's centrepiece. These will serve as the bouquet's focal points. To begin arranging them into a bouquet, place them in the middle of the hand cross the stems, and bind them with tape
- iii. To make a balanced and eye-catching design, put lesser or complementing flowers around the central flowers. Place them at various heights to create depth and dimension
- iv. Strategically distribute the greenery throughout the arrangement. This step is optional, and you can skip it if you prefer a bouquet with only flowers.
- v. Hold the bouquet by the stems in one hand, allowing the flowers to naturally fall into place. If necessary, reposition the flowers and foliage to give the arrangement a nice, rounded appearance. Keep the bouquet tight and compact.
- vi. To secure the stems, wrap floral tape around them slightly below the blooms. Make sure the tape is snug enough to hold the bouquet firmly but not so snug that the stems are damaged. Remove any extra tape.
- vii. Make sure the stems are all equal in length and trim them up to the preferred length. This step ensures that the arrangement fits comfortably in the vase or container of choice.
- viii. For a finishing touch, tie it with satin ribbon, and required can use nets or laces to match the colour combination.

### **22.10.3 Wrapping a Bouquet in Cellophane**

- Spread out a long piece of cellophane on a flat surface. Place the bouquet in the centre of the cellophane, and then carefully cover it with the remaining material.
- Cut the cellophane from the roll, turn the two cut sides inside, and staple them together. Make sure that the flower heads are not crushed, gather the cellophane around the bouquet's stems, and secure it with a wide ribbon in a colour that matches the flowers.

### **22.10.4 Types of Bouquets**

There are several different types of bouquets, each with its own style and arrangement techniques. The choice of bouquet type often depends on the occasion, personal preferences, and the desired aesthetic.

- **Posy Bouquet:** Posies are circular bouquets. The stems can either be wired or removed and left in place. The posy is compact, spherical, and can be carried comfortably in one hand. Posy bouquets are small and compact arrangements, typically consisting of one type of flower or a few complementary flowers. They are commonly used as a toss bouquet or by bridesmaids and are held in one hand.
- **Crescent Bouquet:** Flowers are placed in a curved shape to form a crescent- or moon-shaped arrangement. The bouquet's left and right sides could be seen streaming downward. Both symmetry and asymmetries are possible. They are classy and appropriate for both formal and casual settings.

- **Arm Bouquet:** A bouquet created to be cradled in the arms rather than held in the hand is called an arm bouquet, also known as an arm sheaf bouquet or a presentation bouquet. This kind of bouquet looks like a sheaf or bundle of flowers held in the crook of the arm due to its long, trailing appearance. In formal settings and occasions like weddings, arm bouquets are frequently used, especially by brides and bridesmaids. Long, cascading branches that reach below the flowers are a common feature of arm bouquets, giving them an elegant, flowing appearance. An arm bouquet often has flowers and greenery placed vertically or longways. A decorative wrapping, fabric, or ribbon is frequently used to secure
- **Cascade Bouquet:** Cascade bouquets are often known as gathering or waterfall bouquets. This bouquet has an abundance of blossoms at the top and tapers down, ending with flowing greenery or ribbon. They have flowers in their designs that hang downward, giving them a dramatic and attractive appearance. When viewed from the side, cascade bouquets often feature a "S" or teardrop form. This form makes the bouquet flow elegantly and produces an eye-catching appearance. Usually, a handle that can be adorned with ribbon, cloth, or other decorative materials is used to hold the bouquet. The handle is frequently concealed beneath the flowers, giving the bouquet a floating look.
- **Fan Bouquet:** A fan bouquet is a special and eye-catching floral design. It is distinguished by the wide, flat, semi-circular, or fan-shaped arrangement of the flowers and leaves that gives it its characteristic shape. The bouquet's colour scheme and design are generally reflected in the ribbon, fabric, or decorative items used to cover the handle.
- **Hand-tied Bouquet:** A hand-tied bouquet is made by gathering a variety of flowers and greenery and tying them together close to the stems, usually with floral tape or ribbon, as the name implies. This produces a bouquet that is meant to be held in one's hand and is naturally and loosely placed. They are frequently utilized for weddings and other special occasions and have a natural, unstructured appearance. Hand-tied bouquets have a natural and romantic appearance, making them a favourite choice for weddings. They are also commonly used for presenting flowers as gifts on occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, and Mother's Day. Their versatility, timeless appeal, and ability to showcase the beauty of the flowers make them a favorite among both florists and flower enthusiasts.
- **Nosegay Bouquet:** Nosegay bouquets are similar to posy bouquets. A nosegay bouquet, sometimes referred to as a nosegay, is a small, compact floral arrangement that frequently consists of a close group of flowers and occasionally also contains greenery or foliage. Nosegays can be created with just one type of flower for a unified, monochromatic appearance or with a combination of complementing flowers in various hues and textures. The nosegay stems are frequently wrapped in twine, cloth, or ribbon to complete the arrangement and provide a decorative touch. This packaging can be chosen to go with the event's colour scheme or theme.
- **Pomander Bouquet:** A pomander bouquet is distinguished by its spherical or ball-shaped composition. To get this compact and rounded appearance, the flowers or other decorative components are grouped closely together. These bouquets are frequently used as decorations for homes or venues as well as for weddings and other special occasions. A pomander may feature a handle or a ribbon loop for hanging, depending on its

intended usage. To enhance their beauty, some pomanders are embellished with ornamental components like pearls, crystals, or more ribbon. Pomanders are not only lovely, but they also serve a symbolic purpose. They can serve as important wedding favours because they can represent harmony, love, and good fortune. They are especially well-liked for garden and outdoor weddings.

- **Basket Bouquet:** A basket bouquet, also known as a basket arrangement or floral basket, is a charming and versatile floral arrangement where flowers and greenery are arranged in a decorative basket or container. These arrangements are popular for a wide range of occasions, including weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events. If the basket is designed to be carried, it may have a handle wrapped in ribbon or fabric for a comfortable grip. Alternatively, the handle may be omitted for a stationary display. Basket bouquets are versatile and can serve multiple purposes. They can be used as table centerpieces, ceremony decorations, bridal bouquets, or gifts for various occasions.

Those who have passion and patience can beautifully create flower displays. This art will give immense pleasure and satisfaction to the creator. The art of flower arrangement provides a captivating outlet for creativity and self-expression. By understanding the principles, techniques, and styles of floral design, students can embark on a journey of artistic exploration that not only enhances their aesthetic sensibilities but also deepens their connection with nature and the world around them. create stunning arrangements that reflect their unique perspective.

### **End of Chapter Exercise**

1. Create a mood board or collage showcasing the importance of flowers in interior design. Explain the role of different flower types in enhancing interior aesthetics.
2. Research and present a timeline of significant historical developments in flower arrangement, highlighting key artists and styles.
3. Identify and collect various elements commonly used in floral creations, such as flowers, foliage, containers, and accessories. Create a visual display to demonstrate their importance.
4. Develop a floral arrangement using the principles of balance, contrast, harmony, and focal points. Analyse and discuss how each principle contributes to the overall design.
5. Experiment with different methods to extend the longevity of fresh flower arrangements. Document and compare the results of these techniques over time.
6. Choose a special occasion (e.g., weddings, funerals, holidays) and design a floral arrangement tailored to that event. Discuss the symbolism and colour choices.
7. Study and replicate famous floral creations designed for special occasions, emphasizing the unique elements that make them stand out.
8. Gather materials for bouquet making, including a variety of flowers and greenery. Follow guidelines to create different types of bouquets (e.g., hand-tied, cascade, nosegay).

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