

Geometry in Floral Design

Mechanics

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

Symmetrical

formal, equilateral triangular design; corresponding in size, shape, and relative position of parts on opposite sides of a dividing line

Equilateral Triangle

triangle with sides of the same length; in traditional geometry, these triangles also have angles of the same measurement

Isosceles Triangle

triangle which has two sides of the same length

Right Triangle

triangle with one 90 degree angle

Asymmetrical

triangular pattern with a strong "L-Line;" not identical on both sides of a central line

Formal-linear Design

asymmetrically balanced design of few materials usually placed in groups which emphasize forms and lines

Circular Mound

circular arrangement which is the same when viewed from all angles; only the top flower may differ in height

Circular Mass

circular arrangement with very closely arranged floral materials and in which all floral material is the same height

Round Designs

also called circular arrangements; do not have a focal point

Abstract Designs

contain more than one single focal point

Elements

basic visual qualities of a design; includes line, form, space, texture, pattern, color, size and fragrance

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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

Shape

two dimensional; geometric shape of an object

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

Size

amount of space a component occupies in a composition

Fragrance

appealing odor emanating from a specific item

Principles

expressed visually through the elements and include balance, proportion, harmony, unity, dominance, rhythm and contrast

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

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Harmony

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

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

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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