

# *Floral Containers*



*ROP Art & History of Floral Design  
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# ***Objective***

**At the conclusion of this lesson students will be able to:**

*Understand the importance of floral container selection by creating a 2-dimensional design focusing on container function and aesthetics*

# *Introduction to Containers*

- ◆ There are a variety of containers
- ◆ Shapes
- ◆ Sizes
- ◆ Styles
- ◆ Materials
- ◆ Prices
- ◆
- ◆ Choice depends on different components
- ◆ Flowers being used
- ◆ Where design will be placed
- ◆
- ◆ Container should be compatible with entire design and setting



# *Function of Containers*

- ◆ Ancient times
  - ◆ Not made specifically to hold flowers
  - ◆ Alternative use for food and water containers
- ◆
- ◆ Modern times
  - ◆ Container serves as the foundation and starting point for construction
  - ◆ If the container is weak in its design or impression, the entire arrangement will look weak as well
- ◆



# *Function of Containers*

- ◆ Factors to Consider
  - ◆ Fresh flower containers must hold water
  - ◆ Must be large enough to accommodate flower stems in the container
  - ◆ Must have an opening large enough to fit the stems into the vase
  - ◆ Container must be heavy enough to support the weight of the arrangement
  - ◆ Should help conceal any mechanics of construction



# *Shape and Size*

- ◆ Adds to the unity of the design
- ◆ Shape
  - ◆ Should flow visually with the arrangement
  - ◆ Harmony cannot exist if the container is the wrong shape or out of proportion with the arrangement
  - ◆ Shape often dictates the form of the finished composition
- ◆ Size and Scale
  - ◆ Container should not overwhelm or underestimate the foliage
  - ◆ Size is closely related to function as it must hold the flowers sturdily
    - ◆ Gladiolus and Football Mums must have a heavy container or the arrangement will tip over

# *Shape and Size*



# *Style*

- ◆ May set a period-style theme
- ◆ Color of container should also be compatible
  - ◆ Make sure contrast is not too bold (ie: pastel flowers with black container)
- ◆ Patterns may be used if they do not overshadow the flowers
  - ◆ Useful in holiday designs to execute a theme
- ◆ Textures may enhance arrangement
  - ◆ Current trend involves reflective containers of shiny metals or mercuried glass



# *Style*



# *Common Materials*

- ◆ Most common are glass and plastic
- ◆ Baskets are popular
- ◆ Brass and other metals are used for more formal arrangements
- ◆ Choice is dictated by arrangement requirements and budget

# *Glassware*

## ◆ Pros

- ◆ Affordable
- ◆ Versatile
- ◆ Variety of sizes and shapes
- ◆ Look of elegance and quality
- ◆ Light being able to pass through adds dimension to arrangement

## ◆ Cons

- ◆ Inner workings of arrangement are easily seen
- ◆ Minimal use of mechanical aids
- ◆ Water must be kept clean
- ◆ Floral preservative must not cloud



# *Plastic*

## ◆ Pros

- ◆ Many shapes, sizes, and colors
- ◆ Versatile in its appearance
- ◆ Very cheap
- ◆ Durable
- ◆ Lightweight

## ◆ Cons

- ◆ Lightweight
- ◆ May look cheap



# *Baskets*

- ◆ Pros

- ◆ Generally inexpensive
- ◆ Coarse texture offers home spun appearance
- ◆ Used throughout the year

- ◆ Cons

- ◆ Stability issues
- ◆ Must have liner to hold water or soil



# *Ceramics*

- ◆ Pros
  - ◆ Sturdy
  - ◆ Versatile
- ◆ Cons
  - ◆ Heavy
  - ◆ Expensive



# Metals

- ◆ Pros
  - ◆ Very high quality appearance
  - ◆ Sturdy
- ◆ Cons
  - ◆ Heavy
  - ◆ EXPENSIVE!!!
  - ◆ May be chemical reaction with floral preservative



**So expensive...these were in Martha Stewart Magazine as a new trend: Martha is always super expensive:)**