



Flower Arrangements

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Arranging flowers is a kind of art and a successful flower arranger is a born artist. But, one can become reasonably conversant about this art with proper training, a lot of patience and perseverance.

'It is an art of arranging flowers in different styles'.

OR

'Flower arrangement may be defined as the art of organizing and grouping together the plant materials so achieve the uniformity of form, color, and texture.

Basic styles of flower arrangements –

1. Western style/ English style
2. Eastern style/ Japanese style /Ikebana
3. Free style
4. Modern style

Western Style/ English Style of Flower Arrangement

This style of flower arrangement is associated with mass or a number of flowers and foliage arranged together in graceful manner.

Emphasis is given on mass flower arrangement and is primarily a form of art, so as to make the arrangement attractive as far as possible.

Western style is characterized by the mass of flowers and foliage arranged in various formats. It is balanced formal style which may be for front viewing or to be viewed from all sides.

Ingredients Required

- Mechanics – Floral foam, chicken wire, pin holders, adhesive tape, setting clay, glue, pebbles & marbles.
- Equipments – Buckets, Florist scissors, mister, floral tape, wire, knife, blade, pruning shear.
- Containers – Urns, vases&jugs, basket, bowls&trays, Wreath frames, candles cups, miscellaneous objects.
- Bases – wood base, stone base, oriental base, tree section, table mates.
- Accessories – Bronze lamps, hats, wooden shapes, beads, candles, carved objects, shells.
- Plant materials – Flowers (gerbera, lilies, tulips, gladiolus, tuberose, dahlia, chrysanthemum, carnation, rose, orchids, bud of paradise). Foliages (Caladium, crotons, fern, palm leaves, and other ornamentals).

Various style of western flower arrangements

1. Circular shape
2. Triangular shape
3. Radiating or Fan shape
4. Crescent shape

5. Horizontal shape
6. Hogarth or 'S' shape
7. 'L' shape

Circular shape flower arrangement

- Circular design adds a pleasing element & are satisfying to the viewer's eye. It is loved by nature since majority of flowers lies in this shape. In fact, its also easier to arrange flowers in circular fashion.
- This type of arrangement is laid on conference tables or on buffet tables. They can be presented to high class executives or politicians on different occasion.



Triangular shape flower arrangement

- Most common arrangement made in the shape of a triangle and this arrangement of flowers used in personal and professional functions.
- Firstly height and width is fixed with flowers and then focal point is established.
- Commonly found on reception counter, buffet table, inside stations and lobby manager's desk and ceremonies.



Radiating/Fan shape flower arrangement

- It is a low arrangement and it does not interfere with conversation across the table.
- Generally placed in the restaurant either in buffet or on dining table. Hotel rooms also have this kind of arrangement.
- Line flowers or foliage are used to form the outline – gladiolus, snapdragon, flat fern, and palm fronds are commonly used.



Crescent shape flower arrangement

- Crescent is asymmetrical and formal type of flower arrangement it requires allot of skill and experience.
- This type of arrangement is the eye catching one.
- It is kept in lobby of hotel and used as a focal paint to catch the attention of the guests.



Horizontal design flower arrangement

- The horizontal design makes an excellent center-piece because it is beautiful when viewed from either the front or the back.
- The height of the arrangement is reduced so that the horizontal length becomes $1^{1/2}$ -2 times the length of the container.
- This gives the arrangement the appearance of being nearly like an inverted crescent design.
- A focal point may then be established on each side to attract attention to the design.
- This style of arrangement may easily be used with candles for an evening dinner party. All foliage and flowers located near the candles should be low enough so they will not be burned as the candle is shortened by the flame.



Hogarth or 'S' shaped flower arrangement

- This is very graceful style of arrangement. It is easier to make when curved branches are used. Once 'S' shape is made, flowers are filled at the center.



'L' shape flower arrangement

- As its name says, L shaped arrangement is designed using the shape of letter "L". This is one of typical asymmetrical arrangements.



Eastern Style/ Japanese Style/ Ikebana Flower Arrangement

“Emphasis is given on spiritual and religious background and only few flowers are used”.

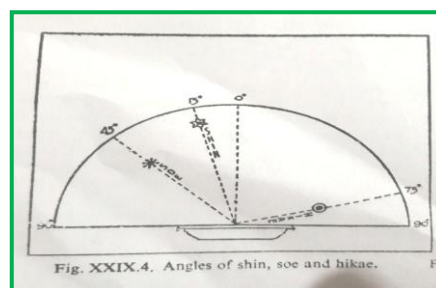
Ikebana is the art of arranging flowers. In Japanese “ikeru = Keep alive, arrange flowers living and “bana” = Flower. Word ‘Ikebana’ meaning

“Giving life to flower” & arranging flowers.

The first school of Ikebana, called the Ikenobo, meaning “The arrangement of flowers of the hermitage along a pond”, was started by the Buddhist Monk Semmu around A.D. 621.

Earlier flower offerings were in the form of standing arrangement of nature and called “Tatebana”.

“Sogestsu” is a Japanese flower arrangement which does not follow rigid rules of offering flowers to Lord Buddha and flower arrangers can use their imagination after following basic traditional lines of Ikebana. 1. ‘Shin’ Heaven 2. ‘Soe’ Mon 3. ‘Hikae’ Earth.



Material required

- Containers (vases, jars, fish bowl, coffee or tea pots, bottles, bamboo hollows, trays) –
 - ✓ As any similar vases available in the locality will be suitable for Nageire arrangement.
 - ✓ Any good looking flat saucer-type container which holds water is good enough for Moribana arrangement.
- Pin holders/ kenzan
- Fixture – basic three types of fixture
 - Split-bar fixture
 - Single-bar fixture
 - Cross-bar fixture
- Sharp knife
- Fine sprayer
- Barber’s sprayers
- Scissors
- Secateurs
- Wooden board
- Pruning shears
- Blade
- Chicken mesh
- Wire
- Thread
- Cellophane tape
- Candle
- Flowers and Ornamental plants
- Wooden or bamboo bases
- Drift wood
- Stone pieces

General Rules and Basic Styles of Ikebana

- The appearance should be natural and should look like a flowering bush or tree in a container.

- It should have three main lines namely 'Heaven' called Shin, 'Man' called Soe, and 'Earth' called Hikae. In an arrangement, 'Shin' is the tallest stem, followed by 'Soe' and 'Hikae'.
 - The length of the three lines depends on the size of the vase.
 - For Large-Size Containers
Shin = 2 (diameter+height of vase)
Soe = $\frac{3}{4}$ of Shin
Hikae = $\frac{1}{2}$ of Soe
 - For Medium-Size Containers
Shin = $1\frac{1}{2}$ (diameter+height of vase)
Soe = $\frac{3}{4}$ of Shin
Hikae = $\frac{3}{4}$ of Soe
 - For Small-Size Containers
Shin = Diameter+height of vase
Soe = $\frac{3}{4}$ Shin
Hikae = $\frac{3}{4}$ Soe
- Only a few flowers, that too in odd numbers, are used except when only two flowers are used.
- Faded flowers, damaged or torn leaves and affected branches should not be used.
 - Half open buds are always preferred.
 - The position of pin-holders in the different container should be well illustrated.

Various Style of Ikebana

1. Heika
2. Rikka
3. Seika
4. Moribana
5. Nageire
6. Iguana
7. Chushobana
8. Zeineko
9. Zeneibana
10. Morimono
11. All-foliage arrangement

Heika – Heika is basic Ikebana style that incorporates the design styles of Rikka(standing flowers), Shoka(living flowers), and Seika. In the Heika style, the emphasis is on strong vertical lines. Tall, narrow, elegant vases are often used to draw the eye upward toward the flower arrangement at the top.

- The Heika style is much formalized and has very explicit rules that must be followed in order to conform to the demands of the style.
- Rikka is one of the earliest forms of Ikebana. It also has the strictest rules.
- Shoka and Seika have less rigid rules.

Rikka - Originated from a style that was used in temples and ceremonies. Now a day this style is not popular. Rikka style was established in the Muromachi period, in the 15th century. It is said to be the foundation of Ikebana, from which Shoka, Moribana and Nageire styles evolved. There are two varieties of Rikka, the traditional Rikka Shofutai and the more modern, Rikka Shimputai.

i. Rikka Shofutai



- Rikka Shofutai is the most formal style of Ikebana and has a distinctive character, which expresses the beauty of natural landscape. This classical types of Rikka follows strict rules and uses special techniques such as wiring.
- It consists nine main stems or parts applying different characters, length, angles, and directions of materials to construct a harmonious, scenic natural landscape.
- These nine main stems are Shin, Shoshin, Soe, Uke, Nagashi, Mokoshi, Hikae, Do, Maeoki. These are also known as yakueda. Each yakueda has a particular function and point of departure from an imagined vertical line running through the center of the arrangement.
- This point of departure is called de. Each yakueda also has a particular insertion position on the kenzan (pin holder).
- The height, length, and position of each yakueda respond to or support another. The harmony of height, width, and depth is one of the most important factors to consider. Apart from these nine main stems, additional stems, called ashirai also required for completion.
- The vase in Rikka usually is 20-30 cm in height and should open out at the top. The stems should appear as a clean, single, vertical line rising from the centre of the kenzan. This is called Mizugiwa, literally translated as water's edge.



ii. Rikka Shimputai

- This modern Rikka style allows more of the arranger's expression, thoughts and creativity because it is released from the rigid rules and forms seen in Shofutai.
- For example, Rikka Shimputai does not have fixed points of departure. Instead of having nine main stems seen as in Shofutai, two contrasting main parts construct Rikka Shimputai, these are known as Shu and Yo. Usually two or three sets of Shu and Yo with ashirai are used in a single arrangement.
- The important factors to consider are contrasting materials, colour, quantity and texture of the materials. The distinguishing characteristics of Rikka Shimputai are brightness, sharpness and striking or conspicuous appearance. These are similar to Shoka Shimputai, although Rikka Shimputai has a more relaxed feeling and fresh appearance.



Seika – A modified style of Rikka. The three stems represent heaven, man, and earth. It is an abbreviated standing up arrangement.

Moribana – Moribana means 'piled flower' where shallow containers along with pin-holders are used.

There are two basic style of moribana

- Upright style in moribana
- Slanting style in moribana

i. Upright style in moribana

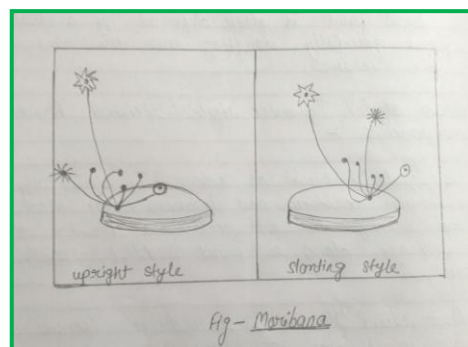
- The pin-holder is placed at the frontal left corner of the container. The Shin is fixed in the pin-holder at the rear end at an angle of 10° to 15° on the left of the vertical 0° and bend forward by about 10° .
- Soe is then arranged on the left of Shin at 45° from vertical and caused to lean forward by 20° .



- The Hikae finds its position on the right side of the vertical at the angle of 75° with a forward inclination of 30° . The Jushi are now fixed in position as per rule described earlier.

ii. Slanting style in moribana

- In this arrangement the pin-holder is positioned at the rear of the container towards your right end.
- Here, all the angles and inclinations remain the same as above, except that the angle and inclination of Shin is inter-changed with that of Soe as above and vice versa.
- Hikae remains in the same position as above. The Jushi are arranged as per rules. As the tallest main line Shin is placed at a relatively slanting angle of 45° , the total effect also becomes slanting.



Nagaire – It means ‘throw-in’ and needs tall, upright, vases for arrangement. Instead of pin-holders, different bar fixtures are used, that is split bar fixture, single bar fixture and cross bar fixture. Flowers should have long stems. Few flowers and simple containers are used in this styles.

There are two basic style of Nageire –

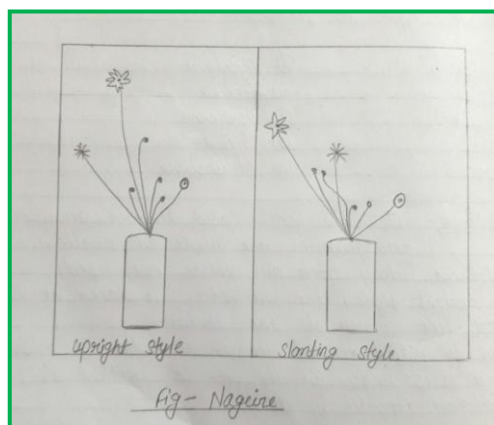
- Upright style in Nageire
- Slanting style in Nageire

i. Upright style in Nageire

- If a cross-bar fixture is used for this arrangement, the opening of the vase will be divided into four quadrants and only one such quadrant is used at a time for arranging the flowers.
- In this style of arrangement all the angles and inclinations for the three main lines are exactly similar to that of basis upright style of Moribana. The jushi are arranged in the same quadrant close to the respective lines taking care to camouflage the fixture with their help.

ii. Slanting style in Nageire

- Here the tallest main line Shin is fixed firmly in a split-bar fixture and the cut end of Shin should rest against the opposite inside wall of the vase for additional support.
- The Soe may either have its own split-bar fixture or draw support from shin. Hikae being the smallest in length does not need its own fixture, but can be held in position with the support of the other stems.
- Here also, the angles and inclinations of the main lines remain the same, as in the basis slanting style of maribana.



Iguana

- It is the free style flower arrangement to express pleasing and harmonious effect on an individual. In this style, combination of wood, metal or other materials are used.
- Containers made of bamboo, ceramic, wood or metal may be used and have simple, classic or asymmetric shapes with several opening.

Chushobana

- This is the improved style of free style but is inclined towards the pure form or design. Flowers are selected on the basis of shape and colour. Material like seaweed, dried plants,

roots and shells are also used. These arrangements are dramatic, simple and create special effects.

Zeineka

- Means abstract and this style does not stimulate nature. Straight material with uneven height is used.

Zeinebana

- It is the advanced grade style, a new trend in the art of flower arrangement. In this style, wood, stone or metal is used to make a beautiful sculpture depicting a seaside or a natural scene. It may indicate an abstract idea or a new and original way of using traditional containers and classical styles.

Morimono

- The arrangement in combination with fruit and or vegetables and flowers are termed by the Japanese as Morimono. These are arranged on a wooden base, called Dai in Japan, or a tray, or in a basket, or in a shallow bowl. Sometimes, a small shallow bowl is used for the flowers only, while the fruits and vegetables are arranged in such a way as to camouflage this bowl.
- Fruits such as grape, orange, pineapple, apple, etc. can be selected for this arrangement.
- Vegetables such as red tomatoes, capsicums, brinjals, and carrots are quite suitable for this purpose. And here, also the three main lines of Shin, Soe, and Hikae are used.



All-foliage arrangement

- An all-foliage arrangement can be as attractive and artistic as a floral arrangement. A foliage arrangement may last longer than many floral arrangements.
- The foliage should be arranged in some container having water. A natural-looking container of stone, looks much better. A driftwood laden with lichen will make an arrangement very natural.
- An all-foliage arrangement should not necessarily be a green one, as in nature we get many coloured leaves. While doing an all-foliage arrangement, one may draw a lesson from the Japanese style.
- Tall leaves such as palms, cycas, sansevieria, lilies, screw pine can be combined with dwarf oval colourful foliage such as coleus, rex begonia, etc.
- For a cascade arrangements foliage such as Pilea muscosa, Zebrina pendula, and Hedera helix are very useful. Colourful leaves of crotons and Magnolia grandiflora are also very useful.



Free Style of Flower Arrangements

Free style, the most recently developed style is very different. Freestyle seeks creative beauty and it is left entirely up to the arranger what to express and how to express. They emphasize the natural beauty of flowers and plants.

It is also entirely up to the arranger what he/she thinks beautiful and what materials to use. The materials in free style are unrestricted.

The arranger may choose not just floral materials but anything he/she desires. Materials, for example may be dried, paper and plastics or metals.

Various techniques may be used, such as wiring or modifying leaves by cutting them to different shapes from the original, natural shape. The vase is also a very important element of the arrangement.

Modern Style of Flower Arrangement

There are no rules at all. These floral arrangements are based on the taste of the floral designer, but it is more close to oriental than traditional style of arranging flowers in its inclinations towards importance to lines.

This style combines elements of Japanese and European arrangements, and is sometimes called contemporary or modern type of flower arrangement.

Basic Principles of Floral Arrangement

1. Balance
2. Focal point
3. Emphasis / Dominance
4. Rhythm
5. Contrast
6. Proportion
7. Scale
8. Texture

BALANCE – Balance means that the finished arrangement does not fall over or look as if it will fall over. A balance arrangement has a focal point. Balance may be symmetrical or asymmetrical.

FOCAL POINT – Focal point is composed of some massive material such as a large flower, bright color or something that will immediately attract attention of the onlooker.

EMPHASIS / DOMINANCE – May be achieved through the use of a dominant color, size, shape or texture, or by using larger forms or stranger colors.

RHYTHM – May be obtained through repetition of shape, hues, line direction, etc. Rhythm may also be achieved through a gradual change or progression in size, weight, texture or color.

CONTRAST - Contrast or difference is achieved by placing opposite or unlike elements together so as to emphasize or accentuate their differences. Contrast stimulates interest.

PROPORTION – Proportion means the size of each element (container, base, plant material etc.) should result in a pleasing harmonious appearance.

SCALE – Scale is size relationship between flower and flower or between flower and container. When variation of size is too great or too small components are out of scale.

TEXTURE – Plant materials come in various textures, glossy, velvety, dull, and so on.

Placing Flower Arrangement

- ❖ **EYE LEVEL** : These can be prominently seen placed at heights from 18⁰ to 4 feet.
- ❖ **HIGH LEVEL** : For anything placing well above eye level flowers used must be long. Can also be suspended from the ceiling.
- ❖ **LOW LEVEL** : Flowers and vases must be large and decorative.

Care of Floral Arrangement

- ❖ Never expose arrangements to direct draught or sunlight.
- ❖ Never put floral arrangement near bowl of fruits.
- ❖ Spray Luke warm water from a mister to keep flowers fresh.
- ❖ Change water everyday.

- ❖ Add Listerine, ammonia, salt, sugar or aspirin in small amounts to water to slow down bacterial growth.
- ❖ Use clean containers.

Conditioning of Flower Arrangement

- Never place a fresh flower arrangements where it will be exposed to direct draughts from a fan or window.
- Never store flowers near to fruits as they emit ethylene gas causes wilting of flowers.
- Prolong the freshness of arrangement with lukewarm water from a mister.
- Change the water every day. And never use chilled water.
- Listerine, ammonia, salt, added in small amounts to slow down bacterial growth.
- Use clean containers for arrangements to prevent premature fouling and bacterial growth.
- Every three days, re-cut the stems and add more preservative.

Selection of Containers and Accessories for Floral Products and Decorations

Selection of containers

1. Presentation
 2. Protection
 3. Durable
 4. Climatic condition relatively
- **Floral containers**
 - Ceramic containers
 - Sleeves and pot covers
 - Tin, Cork, Felt, Burlap pots & Wood containers
 - Basic plastics
 - Biodegradable
 - Floral color glassware
 - Designer plastics
 - Display buckets
 - Foam holders
 - Floral glassware
 - **Accessories**
 - Bronze lamps
 - Hats
 - wooden shapes
 - beads
 - Candles
 - carved objects
 - shells
 - Ribbons
 - Threads
 - Jari
 - Floral tap
 - Scissors
 - Wire
 - Cellophane tape
 - Pin holders
 - Chicken mesh
 - Knife, etc.

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