

Design I: Creative Vertical

CREATIVE VERTICAL: The dominant thrust of the design must be vertical. There may be more than one point of emergence and more than one focal area if it does not destroy the vertical thrust.

Container

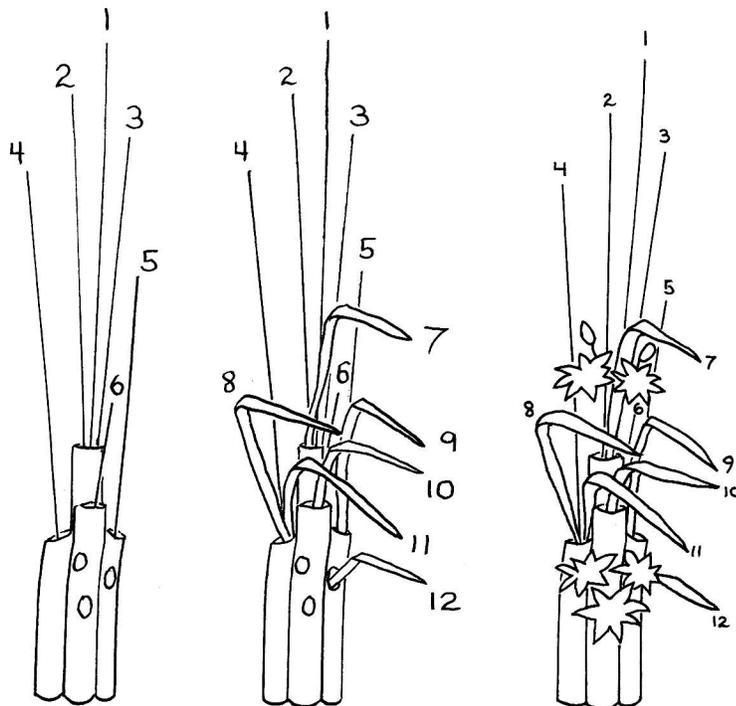
Tall bamboo pottery

Plant Material

6 equisetum (horsetail)

6 yucca leaves

2 sprays of yellow lilies



Procedure

Equisetum is the tallest plant material. Cut different lengths to vary their heights.

Place #1 equisetum, the tallest, in center back.

#2 and #3, the next tallest, on each side of #1.

#4 to the left of #2.

#5 to the right of #3.

#6 in front of and in between #3 and #5.

Yucca leaves are cut as long as possible. Place them in the container before bending. Vary the height of each leaf by varying the place where each is bent. All should be bent toward the right.

Place #7, the tallest yucca, in front of #3 in right center.

#8, the next tallest, to the far right in front of #4.

#9 in front of #5.

#10 in front of #6.

#11 to left in front of #2.

#12 low and in the center front.



Cut the first spray of lilies long enough to be placed in front of #1 and #2 equisetum and under #7 yucca.

Place the second lily spray low and in the center front.

To Make Artichoke Flowers

Buy four different size artichokes. Place on top of small juice glasses until they become soft and begin to change color. Green artichokes are brittle and hard to open. Usually it takes three or four days before they can be opened easily.

Cut in half a number of round wooden toothpicks. These will be used to hold open the leaves.

For all four artichokes:

1. Pull off the very small leaves at the top of the stem. Cut the length of the stem to one inch.
2. Pierce the stem, as close as possible, under the leaves with a thin nail or skewer and insert a round wooden toothpick.
3. Place artichoke in palm of the left hand with the stem between fingers.
4. Using both thumbs, gently open artichoke—starting at the outside edge and working toward the center.

STOP at this point for a bud.

CONTINUE for a half-open bud.

5. Starting with the outer row of leaves, open each leaf as far as possible and insert a half-toothpick at the base of the leaf to keep it open.
6. Work around the artichoke in this manner for three or four rows.

STOP at this point for a half-open bud.

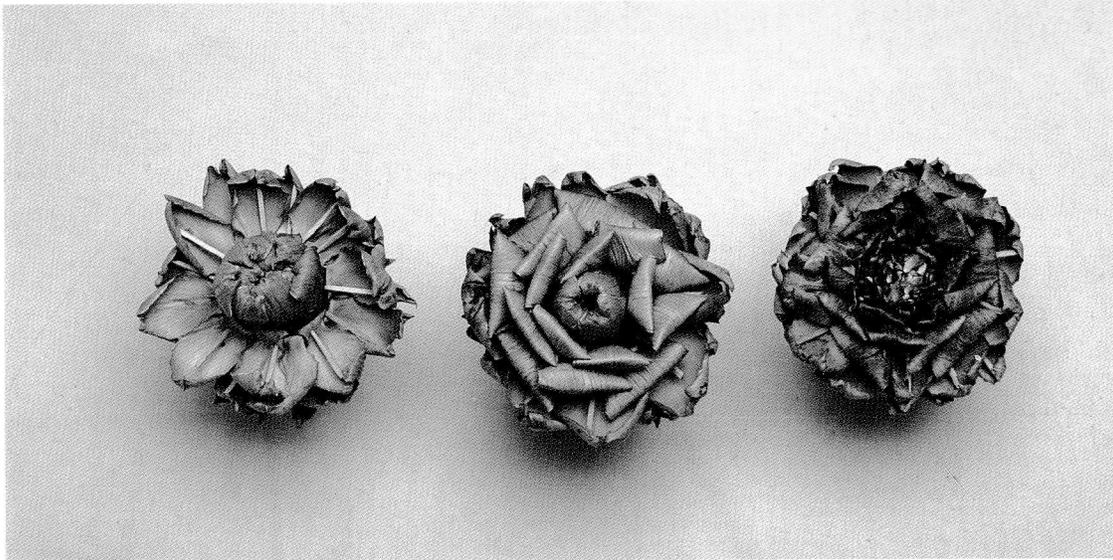
CONTINUE for a half-open rose.

7. For the next three rows, cut off the tips of each of the remaining leaves. Bend each leaf in toward the center. Always work from outside edge toward the center. Be careful not to break or crease the leaf while bending. Place a half-toothpick at the base of each bent leaf to hold it in place.

STOP at this point for a half-open rose.

CONTINUE for a full rose.

8. Begin with steps 1 through 4.
9. Bend all leaves in toward the center. Insert a half-toothpick at the base of each leaf to keep it open.



Artichoke flowers (left to right): half-open bud, half-open rose, full rose.

10. Cut off the remaining small leaves in the center of the artichoke to make a flat center.

Stop at this point for a full rose.

Continue for ALL artichoke flowers.

11. Place the artichokes on top of small juice glasses to dry.
12. Check occasionally to make sure all leaves are in the correct position. If not, re-insert a half-toothpick to hold them in place. It takes several weeks for them to dry. When dry, they are very light in weight.
13. Remove all the toothpicks, including the one in the stem.
14. Place a 12" length of wire in the hole in the stem and bend in half. This wire is then attached to a branch and the artichoke flower is ready to be placed in a flower design.

Note: Other ways to use artichoke flowers:

1. In holiday designs, spray them with gold.
2. In dried designs, use them in natural color.
3. To use in Christmas wreaths, attach to a grapevine wreath. Insert fresh foliage around the artichoke flowers. Add a colorful bow.