

LESSON 6

USE OF FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND ACCESSORIES IN DESIGN:

I. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: Fruits and vegetables are fun to use. They are available, and attractive in a design with or without other plant material. Note: cut fruits and vegetables are not allowed in a flower show unless specified in the schedule. Cut foods **must be sealed** in some manner to discourage insects.

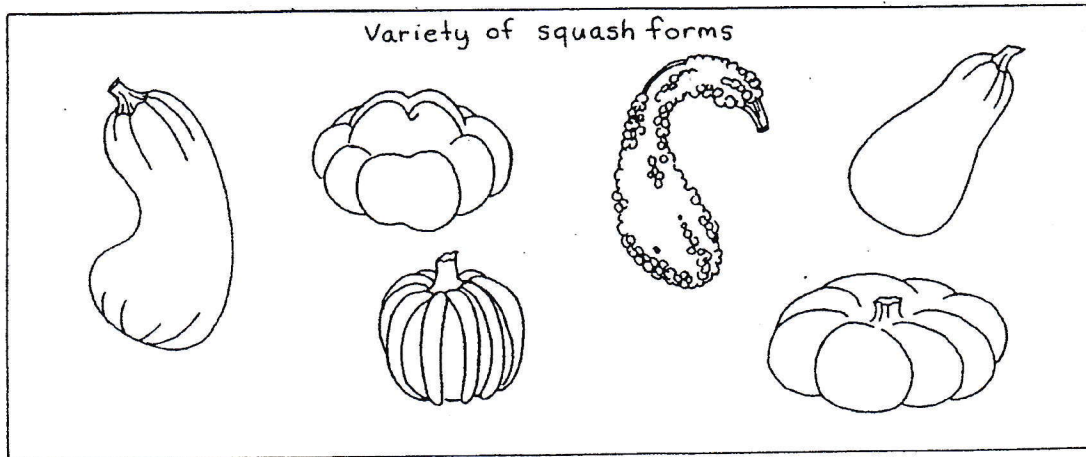
A. Elements to consider:

1. **Form** applies to contour of individual parts or components of a design and is three dimensional.
2. **Color** refers to visual sensations. The colors should be harmonious. A variety of forms are exciting to combine. There are many color combinations to consider when fruits and vegetables are used.
3. **Texture** is the character of the surface generally referred to as rough or smooth, coarse or fine, glossy or dull, hard or soft. A variety of textures creates contrast and interest.
4. **Size** is not the actual dimension, but the apparent or visual size. However in this lesson size and weight determines the difficulty of the mechanics. The smaller forms like apples, lemons, limes, carrots and bananas are easier to secure into the design.

B. Forms to consider:

1. **Elongated:** Bananas, zucchini, squash, cucumbers, parsnips, carrots, etc.
2. **Round :** Apples, oranges, potatoes, limes, brussels sprouts, lemons, nectarines, cabbage, cherries, peaches, etc.
3. **Other forms:** Oval-shaped pears and peppers, dried corn with husks, grapes, pineapple, eggplant, nuts turnips, radishes, pumpkin, etc. Sometimes it may be necessary to wire the elements together like nuts.

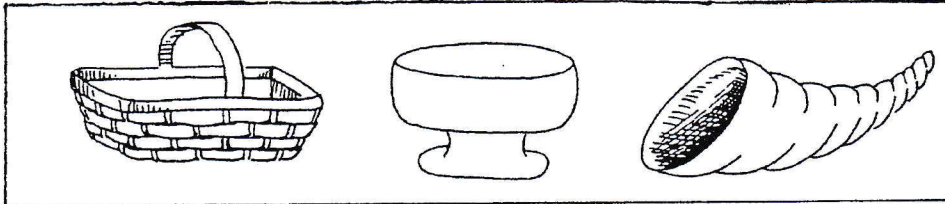
C. Variety of Squash: Of particular interest are the varieties of forms and colors of the squash family such as: Long or narrow; crooked necked, dome-shaped like acorn and pattypan.



D. Containers for Fruits and/or Vegetables: Bases, placemats, bowls, footed compotes, trays, cornucopias, and baskets are useful as containers. Squash, gourds, and other vegetables sometimes may sometimes serve as the container. A cup needleholder may be used if fresh flowers and/or foliage are included. Certain fruit or vegetables may also serve as a water source i.e. an Irish potato.

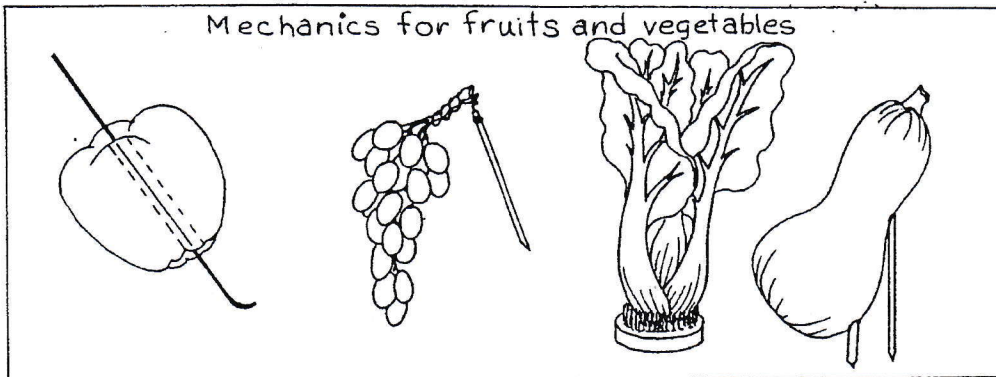
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Possible containers for fruits and/or vegetables.



E. Mechanics:

1. Clippers, needleholder, florist clay, extra stems and/or florist picks, wire (18 and 22 gauge), ice pick; wire cutters; pliers, hammer, pins, "twistems" etc.
2. Techniques to use:
 - a. Make a hole in an apple or other fruit or vegetable with the ice pick; pierce from one end to the other, insert wire, push through the fruit, twist the ends together and secure to a pick.
 - b. Floral picks may be used to connect together and/or attach fruit to Oasis or needle holder.
 - c. Some fruits and vegetables may simply be impaled on a needleholder.
 - d. For large shapes such as eggplants and pineapples, tie with 28 gauge wire to a heavy stem made from a freshly-cut, leafless branch. Insert stick into needleholder.
 - e. Linear forms, such as cucumbers and zucchini, may be inserted at one end or side with a florist pick and then placed on a needleholder.
 - f. Some fruits and vegetables may be placed in the design without mechanics.
 - g. A roll of florist clay, "Cling", Handi-Tac etc. may be useful to stick fruit in place.

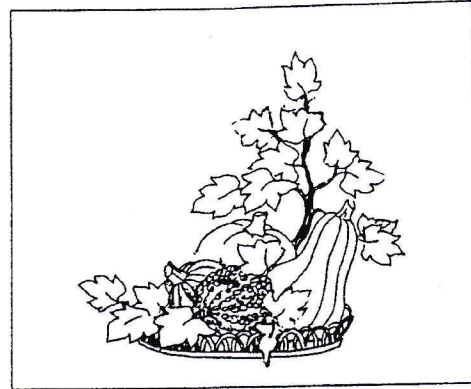


F. Designs with Squash and Foliage for Line:

1. Place a cup needleholder and use in the following manner:
 - a. Select long zucchini or squash, impale end on florist pick, cut the other end of the pick on a slant and insert it into the needleholder.
 - b. Place two other zucchini or squash, each shorter, in the same manner near the largest, one slanting slightly forward and the other slanting toward the back.
 - c. Picks may be inserted in squash and into the needle holder to secure it in place or any other mechanic that works.
2. Foliage material or small squash may be added, behind and in-between squash placements, and extending over the base or container. Be sure to finish back of design with squash or foliage.
3. These heavy forms may be challenging to control. All forms must be secured for actual balance as well as for visual balance. Additional tall plant material may be needed for proper proportion.

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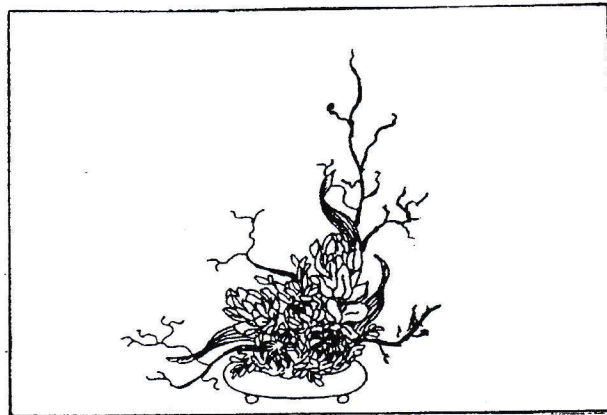
F. Designs with Squash and Foliage for Line. continued.



II. DESIGNS of LINEAR MATERIAL, FRUITS AND/OR VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS:

A. Selection and Placement:

1. Select wide bowl or a large base. Press needleholder in middle, anchoring with floral clay.
2. Look for unusual line material, such as a crooked branch on a tree or shrub, Harry Lauder's walking stick (Corlys Contorta), fan-tail willow, corkscrew willow, winged euonymus, loquat etc. Measure diameter of the container times $1\frac{1}{2}$ for the first line, as in lesson 1. This is a minimum length. Visually heavy elements demand greater height for the visual balance and the correct proportion. Place either upright or on a slant, using the front side to determine line direction. If line is thin, auxiliary lines may be added in back of and in front of main line. Branches should be studied critically to prune out overlapping foliage to emphasize the line. Be sure the line is balanced in the container.
3. Add a second, shorter line at the base to complete the design to the left or to the right. The pattern is an asymmetrical triangle. The motion may be to the left or to the right.
4. Select angular and rounded forms of fruits and/or vegetables to place in front of and in back of lines. Bananas or similar fruits or vegetables may be placed at angles and to follow the line.
5. Select flower colors to harmonize with the fruits and/or vegetables used. Add flowers in groups of three if they are small. These may be placed either high in the design or low for the center of interest.
6. Transitional material may be any type plant material that blends or contrasts with the other elements.



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III. ACCESSORIES IN DESIGN: Accessories have often been included as part of a design. Being able to use favorite figurines, small memorabilia, shells, etc is fun. **Note:** If it is too large it becomes a feature.

A. Definition of Accessories: An **Accessory** is something added; a helper; anything in a design in addition to plant material, container, base, special staging or mechanics.

1. It is **SUBORDINATE** in the design. Accessories are used for a purpose: to establish a mood or feeling, to interpret a theme, to add balance, or otherwise contribute to the design.
2. The line, form, color, size and texture of the accessory, should be harmoniously related to the other components.

B. Use of Accessories:

1. To establish a mood or feeling . This can be achieved by placing a figurine or other accessory near a design. The room decor, idea or theme may be carried out by the use of an accessory.
2. An accessory may be placed for visual balance. To cover needleholder: Rocks, pebbles, glass marbles, shells, etc.
3. The accessory must be in scale with the design. (The size of the accessory must relate well with the design). Usually it should not be over one third the overall height of the design or it becomes too dominate to be called an accessory.

C. Designing with Accessories: The accessory should be an integral part of the design.

1. Place cup needleholder on a placemat, base, tray, or use a needleholder in a shallow container.
2. Select linear material with unusual shapes, flowers that are compatible to other materials selected, and transitional material as needed. Make either a Line or Line-Mass design as plant material dictates, and use one or two small accessories to carry out theme, thought or idea.
3. The line of an accessory should be in harmony with the line of the design. It should not compete with the overall pattern.



IV. APPRECIATION!

Check the design for the visual stability. Does the eye go easily through the design? Is there contrast of texture? Is one color, form, flower more dominant than another? Is anything too large? Too small? Does the accessory have meaning in the design? Is it in harmony with the rest of the design? Is it related in some way to the other components?

Focus on the beauty that has been achieved! Skill as a designer comes with practice and study. Continue to study the art of flower arranging. Study, practice, and time are needed to meet the challenge of designing.