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The fundamentals of floral arrangements

At yesterday's flower arranging bootcamp, Catherine and I literally learned the basics from the bottom up. By Stephanie Wright

This is an exhaustive list of the tips and trends we took from the class - generally in order of assembly.

TREND [Colour]: Black containers disappear when the lights go down, leaving the spotlight on the blooms.

TIP [Preparation]: Cover your vase or container with a grid, using narrow, translucent tape (the 'real' stuff is only available through florists) for support and increased control over the flowers and greens which would normally topple out, being top-heavy.

TREND [Tabletop]: Lemke loves low arrangements and suggests sticking to them, especially at weddings. If you love something tall and eye-catching, use it at the entrance of a room for pop.

TIP [Height]: Sitting at a table, rest your elbow on a table and your chin on your elbow: the bulk of an arrangement should either stop at the height of your chin, or begin at the top of your head (approximately <8" or >16") anything in between will detract from good sight lines and discourage conversation.

TIP [Greening up]: Begin your arrangement with greens, fill in more than you think is required throughout the grid squares. This might be a tad frustrating



Catherine's work space: like cooking, tools, space and ingredients are key



After "greening-up"

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but you can always come back and fix or trim pieces later if they've fallen sideways.

TIP [Hydration, hydration, hydration]: ALWAYS cut your greens and flowers on an angle and keep them in fresh, clean water.

TREND [Bright Greens]: For a dewy look, sprays are available to add a little shine to your greens.

TREND [Added effect]: For a modern, architectural element, roll long leaves down to their stem and secure with a straight pin before adding them to any kind of an arrangement.



Adding flowers

TIP [Local value]: Ontario grows thousands of varieties of flowers, all year round. Buying locally grown florals helps decrease your carbon footprint but also ensures a longer life for your arrangements or bouquet - the further they travel, the older and more fragile they are when they reach you. *Everything we used was locally grown.*

TREND [Display]: Groupings of arrangements, each with a single type of flower is a beautiful way to display flowers.

TIP [Orchids]: Adding orchids to your arrangement? Don't worry about cutting their stems long enough to reach the water, but stick each one in a water pick or vial and just tuck them into the arrangement to hide the plastic.



(From the right) Our lovely instructors, Cathy and Karina with Catherine, her finished product, and me

TIP [White]: White flowers steal all the attention but look ethereal in the dark - play around with colour combinations to see what you like best.

Posted by [Stephanie Wright](#) on February 19, 2009 | [Permalink](#) |