



## *Flower Arrangement*

*by Grace Lee*

Flower arrangement is a creative art that is as inspiring and fresh as the material that goes into the composition. When the designer sees the beauty of her arrangement penetrate through the whole room it occupies, she receives the joy and satisfaction of having placed on display the beautiful forms and colors that only God can sculpture and paint.

Flowers sound the color note in your room, and if you go about arranging them in a happy mood you can make the line of your composition swing to the tempo you desire.

To build a flower arrangement you must first have a foundation and your container should serve you in that capacity. Although it is not the most prominent it is of utmost importance. Therefore, you should select a color that is quiet and subdued so it will blend with your plant material. The lines of your container should be subtle, yet strong enough to give the arrangement security. The texture of your vase or bowl should be related to the flowers you are placing in it. A container that is simple in shape and color will give you and your flowers more freedom in bringing out the desired accent. If simplicity is your keynote you will not be disturbed by confusing lines and intricate patterns. Try to carry out the lines of the vase with the stems of your flowers so your container will become a basic part of your composition.

If you are going to build an arrangement you will need some tools. It is nice to have a small basket to keep your

clippers, flower holders, floral clay, and wire together. There is no time lost in looking for misplaced equipment and your work will be made easy.

The type of flowers is not so important as the arrangement. However, good taste bids us keep the flowers in an environment suitable to their type, for the background is to an arrangement what the frame is to a picture. Choose your flowers carefully as to color, for it creates the first emotional effect. They should also be interesting in form and character.

Your foliage should be selected with equal care and placed as purposefully. You will find many surprises and thrills when you look through the large variety of intense colors and gorgeous shapes of plant foliage. It is very important that you cut out all unnecessary leaves or branches that will make your arrangement look cluttered.

A well-balanced composition should have a main line that will govern the other two basic lines of the design. Sometimes it is the foliage, sometimes the flowers themselves, and often the branches that produce these lines. If you allow the stems to cross each other they are liable to cause friction and you lose your harmonious and rhythmic feeling.

It is nice to think of your container as a stage. Pick your leading characters and make them your center of interest. The less important flowers and foliage complete your show and tell a beautiful story.