

I INTRODUCTION TO TABLE DESIGNS

- A. TABLES ARE THE ATTENTION GETTERS IN FLOWER SHOWS
1. Tables have always been the people pleasers in our flower shows
 2. It is important to be as open as possible to provide the incentive for creativity, and yet permit only those components that would be pleasant to view while dining.
- B. **Table Designs** HB pp 76-77
1. **Functional Table**
 - a. Table exhibit planned and set for actual service of food; capable of functioning for dining as displayed.
 - b. Convenience and sense of order must prevail.
 - c. A **decorative unit** (completed floral design with/without candles and other accessories) must be included. A container-grown plant alone is not a design.
 - i. Schedule may specify number or make-up of Table Appointments, or allow the designer freedom to choose.
 - ii. Coordination of all components must be balanced within the allotted space.
 - d. Types
 - i. **Buffet Table** – service for four (4) or more, with components conveniently and logically placed for ease of self-service. At least one (1) serving piece required.
 - ii. **Alfresco** – dining outdoors with any degree of formality
 - iii. **Informal** – casual dining
 - iv. **Semi-formal** – a more formal and sophisticated dining
 - v. **Table/Tray for One** – The decorative Unit should be in proportion to the one (1) Place setting. The tray requires an appropriate-sized Decorative Unit with the stability of the Decorative Unit given importance
 2. **Exhibition Table – not meant to be functional.** Created artistically to suggest the service of food with no requirements as to the type or number of table appointments. Plant material must be used as needed for the overall design. Schedule may require a complete decorative unit.
 3. **Table Appointments**
 - a. Dishes – china, porcelain, stoneware, paper, glass, plastic, metal, wood, etc.
 - b. Beverage service – glass, china, paper, aluminum, etc. Coordinated with other appointments.
 - c. Flatware – plastic, wood, inexpensive metal, etc. Expensive flatware is not permitted in an NGC Flower Show.
 - d. Coverings – tablecloth (neatly pressed with one center fold for large tables, no folds for round tables), place mats, runners, underlays. Schedule may specify overhang for unity within the class.
 - e. Napkins – required for all functional Tables. May be cloth or paper depending on table formality. One (1) or more napkins may be used together, placed where best suited for the table design. Napkins are never placed on dishes in tray classes. Trays are served with food on dishes.
 - f. Decorative Unit with or without candles and/or other accessories. When diners are seated for functional tables. Decorative Unit should not interfere with viewing or conversation across the table.
 - g. Candles – allowed, unless prohibited by fire regulation. Wicks not be charred and are never lit for safety reasons. “Flame” should be above or below eye level. Battery-powered candles are permitted.

The difference

A Functional Table is set for the actual service of food. An Exhibition Table is an artistic arrangement of table components within an allotted space, to provide a creative effect without consideration for functional placement.

II BALANCE, COLOR AND TEXTURE IN TABLES HB P. 63-68

- A. **Balance** – actual balance means an object remains upright.
1. In floral design, visual balance is needed so objects appear balanced from top to bottom, side to side or front to back.
 2. Types of balance
 - a. Symmetrical Balance
 - i. The center of the design uses an imaginary vertical line as the central axis.
 - ii. Both sides of a central axis are comprised of like material placed in a mirror image of each other. (Results may not always be truly identical due to the nature of plant material.)
 - iii. Most Traditional Designs are organized using symmetrical balance.
 - b. Asymmetrical Balance
 - i. The visual weight is comprised of different materials on either side of the axis providing a sense of equilibrium
 - ii. The axis may or may not appear to be in the center of the design.
 3. Dynamic Balance – implied balance and counterbalance
 4. **Balance used in table settings.**
 - a. **Symmetrical balance**, also called formal balance.
 - i. Both sides are nearly alike.
 - ii. Used in designs and table settings of a more traditional style.

- b. **Asymmetrical balance**, things that are more or less equal in visual weight.
 - i. The visual weight of different materials on either side of the axis providing a sense of equilibrium.
 - ii. The axis may or may not appear to be in the center of the design.
- B. **Color** – The result of light striking an object and being reflects to the eye. Colors appear differently depending on the quality of light. Where there is no light there is no color.
 - 1. Background or cloth and all other components become a part of the required harmony.
 - 2. Color can create dominance and contrast.
 - 3. Important factor in over all unity.
 - 4. Specific color combinations have specific associations for each of us.
 - 5. Can produce desired mood or emotion.
 - 6. A strong determinant of the table's degree of formality and suitability for the theme or occasion.
- C. **Texture** - *surface quality of a material*.
 - 1. Modify form and color.
 - 2. Contrasting textures add interest.
 - 3. Too many contrasts of texture give a busy effect.
 - 4. Components should be selected for their textural harmony or contrast.
 - 5. Must be suitable for the theme and occasion.
 - 6. Careful selection of textures is essential to the overall unity of the table setting. Texture, more than any other quality, will determine the degree of formality of a table setting.

III INTRODUCTION TO PETITE DESIGN

- A. **Petite Design** HB p 73
 - 1. A design ranging from 3" to 12".
Schedule to determine height, width and depth as well as any additional staging provided.
 - 2. Additional staging provided by exhibitor is considered as part of the height requirement.
- B. **Petite Award** HB p 43
 - 1. May be offered to most outstanding petite design in a show of otherwise full-sized designs.
 - 2. May not be offered in a Petite Standard Flower Show
 - 3. Petite Award is small, of blue and white ribbons.

IV NGC DESIGN DIVISION TOP EXHIBITOR AWARDS HB p 42 -43

- A. **General Requirements**
 - 1. A minimum of four (4) exhibits per class.
 - 2. When a section combines class/es of Petite designs with class/es of full-sized designs, no Section Top exhibitor Award shall be given.
 - 3. The exhibit must be the work of one individual.
 - 4. Design Top Exhibitor Awards are available only to exhibits in the Design division.
- B. **Division Awards** - only one (1) may be offered in any NGC Flower Show
 - 1. Award of Design Excellence
 - a. One (1) award may be offered to the highest scoring blue ribbons exhibit in the entire Design Division entered by an individual.
 - b. Rosette of gold ribbons
 - 2. Holiday Excellence Award
 - a. One (1) award may be offered to the highest scoring blue ribbons exhibit in the entire Design division of a Holiday(s) and/or Patriotic Flower Show entered by an individual.
 - b. Rosette of red ribbons
- C. **Section Awards** Unlimited number HB p. 39
Only one Section Award is available per section. Each Section must consist of three (3) or more classes having common characteristics or requirements.
 - 1. **Award of Distinction**
 - a. All plant material used in the exhibit must be dried and/or treated, but not fresh.
 - b. Rosette of brown ribbons
 - 2. **Designer's Choice Award**
 - a. Plant material used in the exhibit may be dried, treated dried and/or fresh.
 - b. Schedule may specify the design style and/or a specific design type by name.
 - c. Exhibitor has freedom to choose other components within NGC policies
 - d. If the show is held in conjunction with a plant society, the society may require its particular plant material to be featured.
 - e. Rosette of purple ribbons

3. **Petite Award**
 - a. May be offered to most outstanding petite design in a show of otherwise full-sized designs
 - b. May not be offered in a Petite Standard Flower Show
 - c. Small rosette of blue and white ribbons
4. **Table Artistry Award**
 - a. Schedule may not specify type of plant material (EXCEPTION: Plant Society Shows).
 - b. Schedule may require specific staging, but must not state how it is to be used.
 - c. Award available for Functional and Exhibition Tables
 - d. Rosette of burgundy ribbons
 - e. **A section for Table Artistry must consist of at least three classes with four table design exhibits in each.**
5. **Tricolor Award**
 - a. All plant material must be fresh
 - b. Non-plant material may be included.
 - c. Rosette of red, blue and yellow ribbons
6. **Club Competition Award**
 - a. Design: Floor Design, functional Tables for four (4) or more, or Vignettes
 - b. More than one (1) exhibitor from each club must participate.
 - c. Entry card states name of club/organization with president's name.
 - d. A section must consist of a minimum of four (4) exhibits in one (1) class designated in the schedule.
 - f. Rosette of light blue ribbons
7. **Botanical Arts Design Award** HB p 44
 - a. Each section must consist of at least three (3) classes with at least four (4) exhibits in each class.
 - b. The exhibit must be the work of one individual.
 - c. Rosette of yellow and orange ribbons

V REVIEW JUDGING QUALITIES IN DESIGN POINT SCORING HB p 106 - 109

- A. **Conformance (14 pts)**
 1. Design Type (7 points) – If a Design Style (Traditional, Creative or Abstract), Design Type or Advance Design Type (Creative Mass, Parallel, Tapestry, Underwater, etc.) or color Harmony (Monochromatic, complimentary, etc.) is required by the Schedule, all seven (7) points are awarded to the exhibit if it fulfills the requirement. If the design type requirements are not fulfilled, **ALL SEVEN (7) POINTS MUST BE DEDUCTED.**
 2. Judges do not base their decisions on whether the design type requested adheres to the Principles of Design, but strictly if the design conforms to the descriptions in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.
 3. All other schedule requirements (7pts) – remaining points are divided equally among the requirements stated in the class description and schedule including staging, frame of reference and other requirements.
 4. If schedule states only the frame of reference within the class description, designer is free to use any appropriate staging equipment within her/his area.
 - B. **Design (48 pts)**
 1. Balance (8 pts) – visual balance, symmetrical or asymmetrical, top to bottom, side to side, front to back
 2. Contrast (8pts) - achieved by placing opposites or unlike characteristics of a single element together in order to emphasize their differences. All components of the design are included.
 3. Dominance (8pts) – emphases of one component with all other subordinate
 4. Proportion (8pts) – relationship between amount and quantity of one area to another or to the whole.
 5. Rhythm (8pts) – visual pattern of movement throughout a design
 6. Scale (8pts) – size relationship of one component to another
- Note: If schedule states only the frame of reference within the class description, designer is free to use any appropriate staging equipment within her/his area.
- C. **Selection of Components (8 pts)**

The ability to select components that contribute to the design and to the total creative effect
 - D. **Organization of Components (8 pts)**

The ability to plan and construct an appropriate design
 - E. **Expression (8 pts)**

Title is communicated to the viewer.
 - F. **Distinction (14 pts)**

Marked superiority in technique and craftsmanship

Note: we do not deduct for Design faults under Distinction

VI Review Judging Etiquette, Ethics and Policies

- A. NGC Accredited and Student Judges serve by invitation only and do not solicit judging assignments.
- B. Judges reply promptly to judging invitations. If cancellation is necessary, the Flower Show Judges Chairman is immediately notified to select a replacement. The judge may offer a replacement, but the decision is the sponsoring organizations.
- C. Judges do not charge for judging any Standard Flower Show, Small Standard Flower Show or Specialty Show, but may accept refreshments, meals and a token gift.
- D. Judges must be prepared to judge assigned classes by studying the schedule, the *Handbook for Flower Shows* and its supplements, and additional resources.
- E. Judges **never** judge sections in which they have exhibits.

VII JUDGING PROCEDURES HB p 97

- A. Judging is the thoughtful assessment of the work of others by qualified individuals. NGC Accredited Judges must exemplify the finest qualities of National Garden Clubs. Inc.
- B. All NGC Accredited Judges and Student Judges must be knowledgeable of the policies and rules of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, be aware of all official changes to policy and rules, and abide by them. An Accredited NGC Judge or Student Judge is fair and unbiased, gracious and helpful to those they serve. Judging is an honored responsibility and not a right. Judges serve with integrity and dignity at all times.
- F. Ideally, judges should not exhibit in a show they are judging to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.
- G. The *Handbook for Flower Shows* is the ultimate authority for all NGC Flower Shows. Accredited Judges must own and carry an updated *Handbook for Flower Shows*, while judging. All approved changes and corrections appear in *The National Gardener*. (reference the printed publication or the Member's section online at www.gardenclub.org)
- H. When a judge identifies something in the flower show schedule not in keeping with NGC policies or the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, the Judges Chairman or the General Show Chairman must be notified of the error as soon as possible.
- I. An Accredited Judge serving on the sponsoring organization's Flower Show committee may not serve on the evaluating panel for an NGC Flower Show Achievement Award.
- J. An Accredited Judge is obligated to be mentally and physically prepared to judge.
- K. Judges must avoid being overly critical of exhibits and committee efforts; recognizing attributes is more important than pointing out minor faults.
- L. Personal preferences must never influence judging.**
- M. All judging decisions are based entirely on the appearance of the exhibit at the time of judging.
- N. Judges never refuse to judge any competitive exhibit in an NGC Flower Show. Judges never eliminate an exhibit from judging. If a problem with an exhibit is identified, the General Chairman or Classification Chairman is notified and she/he determines if the exhibit is to be judged or not.
- O. Written comments are encouraged and must be easily understood, helpful and kind. They must be written by the judges or dictated to a clerk. A positive statement should accompany a constructive criticism. All comments must reflect the majority opinion of the judges.
- P. When judging, a majority opinion must always prevail. A judge with a minority opinion must accept the majority ruling. If a panel of judges is unable to reach a decision, all judges must point score all the exhibits involved.
- Q. Judging is confidential and a judge does not share the actual judging discussions with others at any time.
- R. Judges must refrain from commenting on another panel's judging since they were not privy to the judging discussions.

VIII WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR – DESIGN HB p 106

- A. Walk through the entire Flower to establish the quality of the Design Division and Botanical Arts Division- Design
- B. Quickly appraise the show and caliber of exhibits.
- C. **All design exhibits including Floor Designs, Exhibition and Functional Tables, and those staged on pedestals are judged directly center-front at least three (3) feet from the exhibit.**
Functional Tables may be judged from a seated position, but this is not required.
Alfresco Type Tables placed on the floor should be judged standing or seated. Low-Profile Designs are judged looking down on the design.
- D. Duo Designs are judged only from the front of each side of the design.
- E. **Free-Standing designs are judged at least three (3) feet from all sides. Schedule MUST state if the design is Free Standing.**
- F. Petite designs are judged in center-front at a viewing height suitable for seeing design details.