

JUDGES UPDATE “Into the Future” DESIGN SESSION

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Presentation by the OHA Judging Committee





Designing without Oasis/ Floral foam

By Catherine McGill

Why the change in the mindset?





Because...
The earth needs all of us to save it

**Using recyclable ,
reusable, biodegradable
and sustainable
mechanics are a way we
as floral designers can be
part of the solution in
helping the earth recover**

***All the regular floral foam ever used is still on this planet because it is not biodegradable**

*** Floral foam is basically plastic made of formaldehyde and phenols which are toxic**

***Oasis brand is working on making a biodegradable product but it's still not totally biodegradable. It's expensive and not easy to find.**



Think about it... Only using floral foam may be limiting your creativity

**The internet is a great source for ideas and
many of the following photos are from
on-line searches**

**Note: Designers in this slideshow have been
given credit if they were identified**



Non-Foam mechanics and techniques adapt well to various design styles

Visible Use of Water



String & Wire an easy eye catching mechanic





Pin holders/ Kensans

**A kenzan (剣山), also called spiky frog, is a specific device used in the Japanese art of flower arrangement ikebana for fixing the flowers in the container.
The name kenzan (剣山) literally means sword mountain.**



P.Stewart

**Kenzan's can be found in metal,
or clear plastic**





**All sizes and weights, check out thrift stores
for the better-quality older ones!**

**The Japanese use some interesting holders for
design**

Not the Kenzans we are most familiar with



There are variations on the usual Kenzan, more modern mechanics that help support plant material



Combined mechanics such as... Branch & Kenzan





**Don't just use
one**



Design by
Kathryn
Lindsay

**Gel beads
work but
watch your
colour choice**





**Reusable Glass
beads
again watch the
colour choice and
size**



Tape grids

Re-useable grids



Twigs & Moss



**Sand
great for
lower
profile
designs
like Pave**









**TWIGS – can
be an easy
simple and
effective
means of
support**





Armature

A structure or grid work designed for mechanical and decorative purposes, and which becomes an integral part of the design
Definition from OJES Page 130



**Remember an
Armature
can be made of
many materials and
be used in many
designs**



**Egg shells and
branches –
create a
simple
armature**

Be creative

**Non foam
design allows
us to really
think outside
the box!**

**A simple
wooden
branch
may be
all you
need**





**CHICKEN
WIRE**
**Inexpensive,
flexible,
reusable**

Fits all sizes and shapes of containers



**Comes in
colours or
spray paint
your own**



Fill the chicken wire with moss to hold moisture and give a more natural effect





Water tubes

Plastic or Glass Tubes and Bottles in groupings

Covered tubes help create a unique container with added texture



Groupings of small bottles perfect for stems of blooms



Tubes for handheld work





**Wood straw or
oat straw
Fill a container
and it will hold
moisture, give
your plant
material
support, and
it's very
natural
looking !**

What can Judges do to help spread the word about Green designing ?

- **Offer to give demonstrations at their societies to help educate members of ways to do green designs**
- **Volunteer to do a workshop-Hands on learning is a great way to get people comfortable with new ideas**
- **Volunteer to be on your Society Flower Show Committees to help them make their schedules more foam free and green**
- **Use all these green techniques when you enter shows to show others how great these type of mechanics work**

Sideau by Agra-Wool is available in Canada

Blocks

23cm x 10cm x 7.5cm
20 blocks in a box



Stitch Plate

59.5 x 40 x 6.5cm
5 sheets in a box



Completely biodegradable, reusable, compostable, can also be used as growing medium.

100% Natural Floral Foam™ products produced by Agra Wool International™, made from Basalt and a type of sucrose (cane or beet sugar) are degradable. All ingredients are all-natural substances and completely biodegradable until Basalt flour remains. (rock dust)

BE CREATIVE



P Stewart

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX