

inspirational and achievable

# floral design

magazine  
MAY 2016

CRAMMED FULL  
OF REMARKABLE  
**HOT**  
**NEW**  
CONSTRUCTION  
METHODS

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COURSES**

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## FROM THE EDITOR

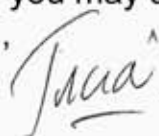
How often do you get the chance to rub shoulders with European Champion florists who have been judged the best in their own countries? It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for most of us, you will agree. What if you could jump the barriers, linger in sessions closed to the public, and watch every stage as they all competed to become the best florist in Europe? Would that be AMAZING or what! Well here it is, as Pavol Kaššák did just that, running from demonstrations theatres to competition halls and back again to capture all the action in minute detail for you to study. Backed up by the passionate designers, Madeleine Sarradell and Gilles Vial-Caille we are able to bring you the best of the best in this and the June edition.

You will see the unique mechanics close up, the constructions methods all uncovered and exposed- in fact a dream seat in the front row as you are handed the hottest new trends and techniques on a plate! Each time we have suggested how you can use these pieces in your own flower arranging, because what you are about to see is the future, the exciting emerging trends in floral design.

But ringing in my ears was a criticism about covering these extraordinary events from one of our readers, "But they are not relevant to my situation, so they are not of interest to me", she wrote. The challenge was thrown down. The result is this month's companion video (opposite page). I took 6 of the most interesting mechanics from this issue's coverage, and used the same methods to create 6 extraordinary floral gifts that could be easily carried out of a flower shop, or into the car to take to a friend.

The optional video is a simple and quick way to try out these new ideas for little expense and using equipment you may already have in your home or office. The free trailer is below.

Happy arranging,



TRICIA LEGG EDITOR



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THIS MONTH'S COMPANION OPTIONAL VIDEO

# 6 EUROPEAN MECHANICS

recreated as  
practical  
floral gifts

**HOT  
NEW**

**DIRECT FROM THE  
EUROPA CUP**

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AND YOUR 2 RESIDENT USA FLORISTS

europa cup



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NEW MECHANICS

The current dominant European style is myriad contrasting textures and forms placed all together in controlled colour schemes but other exciting aspects are the innovative ideas the top florists are inventing for their construction.



It may not seem immediately obvious that the task assigned, which was a picnic for 2, has any relevance to your own designing but look beyond that to discover you can adapt their techniques to table settings, gift arrangements or hotel foyers.



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1



Discs with holes drilled in them were hung using rigid rods from the structure and each other. Each hole was the right size to hold a flower tube which had a raised lip at the top.

**Dini**  
**Holtrop**  
THE NETHERLANDS

floral design 7





Each glass flower tube was filled with blue coloured water.

Dini started by adding the Jasmine vine.





Each flower type was dotted around all the flower tubes rather than grouped. This popular European positioning gives the whole piece unity without having one specific area as the main focus.

This mechanic would be a wonderful way to create a floral chandelier .



Transform  
this  
construction  
into a floral  
gift in this  
month's  
companion  
video.

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2

**Yulia  
Medvedyeva**

ESTONIA

floral design 11





Yulia used resin normally only seen in the flower industry to trap tiny pieces of plant material in oval shapes for necklaces and brooches. Increase the scale and wow, you have 2 organic tables with roots inside!

Rounds of perspex draped over shapes at low oven temperatures for a very short time, soften to create bowls. You can do the same with old vinyl LP records to make black bowls.





Each bowl was filled with plant material all taking a circular line. One on its own would make a beautiful Spring coffee table centrepiece or a fresh and colourful, easy to carry floral gift.



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3

**KATARINA  
ZUPANČIČ  
DEŽMAN**

**SLOVENIA**

floral design 15





The wood blocks were probably placed in a frame and attached to each other with strong wood glue. Metal rods pushed into pre-drilled holes in the wood would have made the legs. Once dry the frame would be removed and the whole piece turned up the right way to create the table.



Zoom in to see in detail the wires holding the glass flower tubes have been pushed into holes drilled into the wood.

Katarina added the interesting sticks around the tubes and began to place the plant material in the water filled tubes.



Once again the flowers were dotted, rather than grouped and to make sure this doesn't become a mess, the colour palette is restricted .

Try this with smaller rectangular blocks of glued wood for a very beautiful modern table centrepiece.



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4

Inna  
Petrenko  
UKRAINE

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Thin welded rods grouped as triangles formed the grid of interesting shapes. They became the attachment point for dozens of glass flower tubes around the base and central area.

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Once the flowers are added, the vegetative look is complete. These self standing metal structures have the advantage of being able to be placed anywhere, plus they are easy and light to carry and transport. Any event would look fabulous with one of these as a centrepiece for each table or scaled up to define an entrance pathway. It would be like walking through a field of wild flowers... magic!







A man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and dark trousers, is focused on creating a large floral arrangement. He is kneeling on a grey surface, working on a base made of thick, light-brown braided rope. The arrangement features a variety of flowers, including purple and white anemones, purple hydrangeas, and purple irises. Black floral pins are used to secure the flowers to the rope base. The man is wearing several bracelets on his right wrist and a watch on his left wrist. The background is a plain grey wall.

europa cup

5

**Dmitry  
Turcan**  
AZERBAIJAN

A crocheted rug made from rope, now that is a challenge for your hands! The rug was laid over a platform. Flower tubes were pushed into the weave and cable ties glued in to serve as upright supports.



  
Transform this construction into a floral gift in this month's companion video.



As Dmitry worked the black cable ties disappeared, so perhaps they were not needed. The plant material was allowed to flop naturally crossing over other stems instead.

Using a crocheted rug to hold flower tubes is an innovative idea, and perhaps it could be scaled down to create a runner up the centre of a rectangular dining table.





europa cup



**Nicu**  
**Bocancea**  
*Romania*

floral design 27



The first thing Nicu had to do was find a tree with interesting branches. Turned upside down and weighted with shale rocks, the branches became a natural floating base that could be used as a table.

Seventy wooden mortars would have been glued and perhaps screwed to the branches and then filled with wet floral foam.

Penne pasta was formed into the circles. This is another really great idea for a base for dried flowers...not wet stems as the pasta would go soft unless they are coated first with a waterproofing sealant.

The wiggly metal circle surrounding the piece will eventually contain moss.



Transform this construction into a floral gift in this month's companion video.



Nicu started with the Jasmine vine, so it formed a layer connecting all the mortars. He then added the layers of flowers, again with no obvious focal point and the two pasta circles acted as accents. The finished result was a network of stems and flowers above the containers.



Using any assortment of pots rather than a solid base, gives a wonderfully airy and light feeling to an arrangement if the plant material connects them all seamlessly.. Try the idea to completely cover a side table in a hotel lobby. Awesome!



6

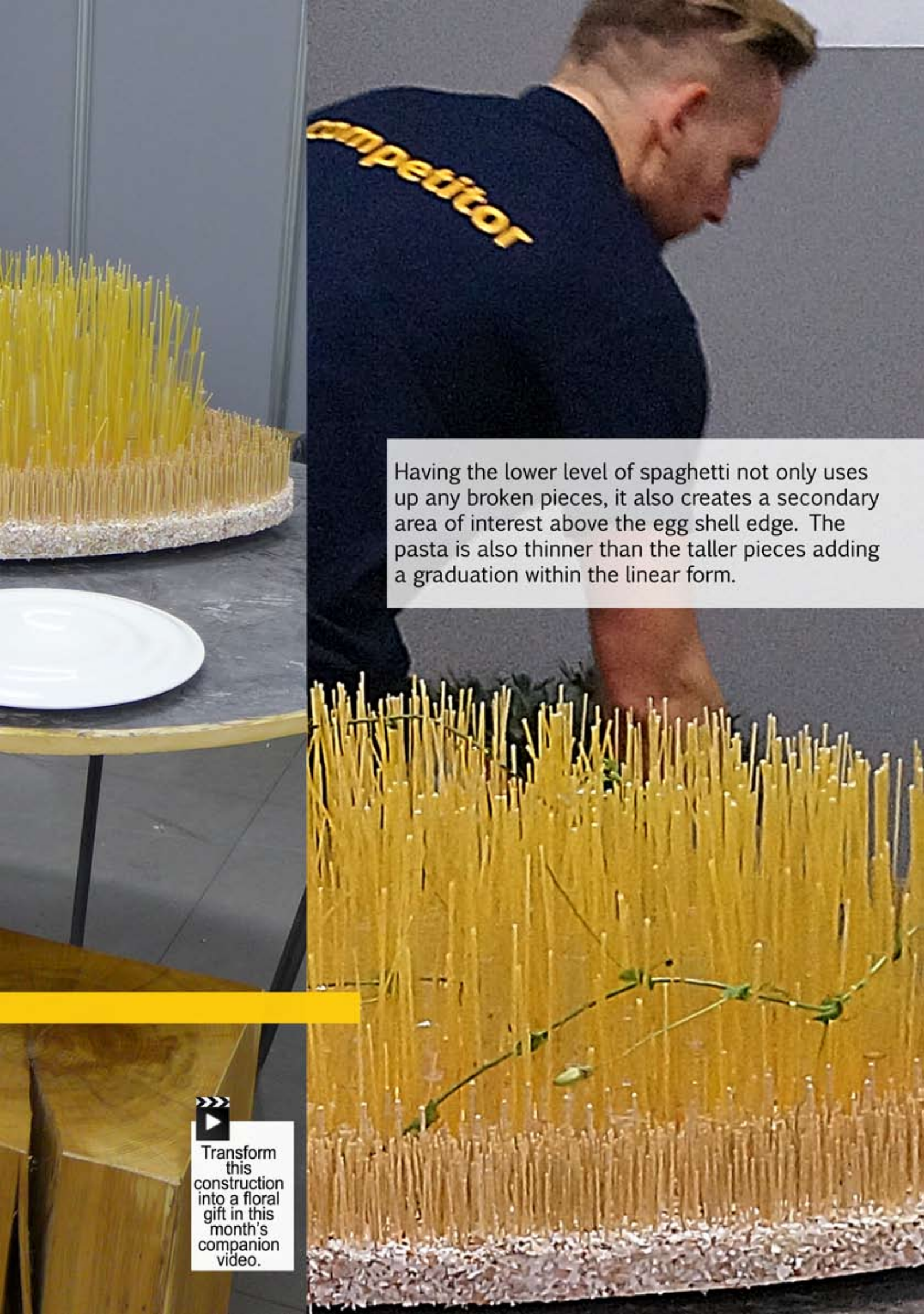


Spaghetti and egg shells take this design into the realms of the food industry so it is a perfect piece to use at a food function. The oval base of polystyrene has been covered with smashed egg shells on the rim and edges and spaghetti pushed into the centre. As it was being built glass flower tubes were hidden in the taller, central spaghetti forest and filled with water.

europa cup

7

**Támas  
Endre  
Mezőffy**  
HUNGARY



Having the lower level of spaghetti not only uses up any broken pieces, it also creates a secondary area of interest above the egg shell edge. The pasta is also thinner than the taller pieces adding a graduation within the linear form.



Transform this construction into a floral gift in this month's companion video.



Once the flowers were put into the glass flower tube the effect was beautiful. Having flicked through a fair few of this edition's pages by now you will have realized all the plant material has been placed in exactly the same way in the vegetative style. This would have been influenced by the theme, which was a 'Picnic in a Meadow' but also it is the current choice in many European countries. This particular mechanic has easily sourced materials, can be reused, and is relatively simply to duplicate.





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8

**silvia**  
**Unterberger**  
AUSTRIA



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The basics of this mechanic you may be familiar with but Silvia combined the often seen technique of dowels drilled into holes in a board with a less recent technique of winding yarn around plastic flower tubes on a stick.

Put the two together and you have a great new look, especially when organized to create an aisle.



Transform this construction into a floral gift in this month's companion video.

Silvia added *Lagurus ovatus* (Rabbit Tail grass) first with seed heads and wisps of sticks. These created a background conjuring up images of late Summer as well as adding height to the piece. Wispy and light they added space without weight.

Lower down went the weightier blooms, all in pastel colours. Wouldn't this make a fabulous wedding aisle inside or outside?







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9

**Marcel  
Schulz**  
GERMANY

floral design 39



Glass flower tubes were placed through the spaghetti and the wire netting. Large rims on the tubes may have held them in place or they were secured.

A simple metal frame was covered in fine wire netting and all this was painted in a pale yellow. Spaghetti, possibly cooked and dried to get the messy look, was laid on top and attached.



The assembled 'table' was suspended on a large frame and the height adjusted appropriate to people sitting on the ground around it.



Two metal rods placed between wooden easels supported the frame at a working height while Marcel added the plant material.



 Transform this construction into a floral gift in this month's companion video.

## europa cup



The vines were placed first as usual for this style, and then the white flowers and lime green berries and foliage followed.

Designed to be looked at from above and suspended, this piece could be adapted to float down from a ceiling. Several placed at differing heights would make a spectacular display in a restaurant or flower shop window. What a great invitation for potential customers to come inside and see more!



A wacky mechanic started with a perspex table (covered in protective blue plastic here) with holes drilled in the top. Plastic tubes were siliconed below each hole.



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10

**Ruslan  
Valiev**  
ARMENIA

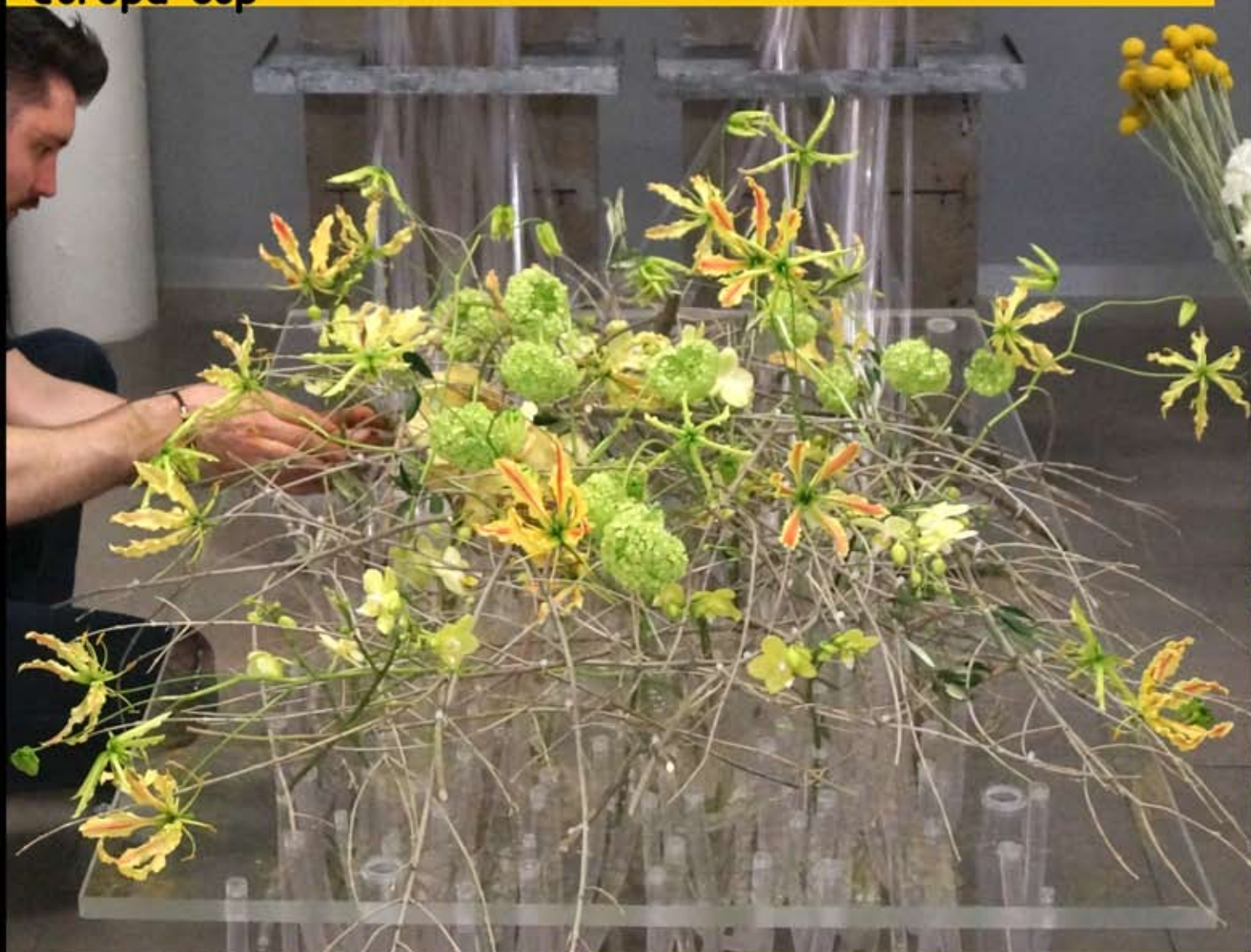


The tubes ran up and over a wall. Fill the tubes with water at the top of the wall and you have a constantly renewing water source for the plant material.



10

A grid of twigs all held together with white cable ties was built over the top of the table.





The flowers in this style are placed at different heights so it becomes a jumble of plant material. Could you use this mechanic in your designs? It is a unique way to keep water available for the plant stems over a long period which you may find workable for exhibition or window display pieces.





europa cup

11

Roman  
Steinhauer  
RUSSIA

floral design 47

If you are a regular reader to *floral design* you will have seen previously the beautiful netting technique using grasses that Roman used. But never before have we seen Dandelion seed heads glued into an astonishing net. The precision to line up all the brown seed heads centres into rows, the invisible gluing, (spray glue?) the ethereal effect of the finished section is breathtaking! It's time to get out the tweezers and have a go, don't you agree?



Positioned under the swathe of grass netting was a series of glass bowls on perspex stands. Filled with water they are a quicker alternative to attaching flower tubes and they virtually disappeared under the netting and plant material.



Instructions to make this netting are available on streaming video at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/netting>  
**CLICK HERE**  
Rent or buy from \$US4.99

18

Roman then started adding the plant material, poking the stems through the netting into the bowls.

He also added extra grass to integrate the netting with the rest of the plants.





Grass netting and Dandelion strings would make sensational screens for wedding events especially if flowers tumbled out from the base. Make the Dandelion strings in late Summer and they will last until the first Spring wedding.

This technique gives you an enormous amount of design freedom as you are not restricted in your use of the space you are working in.

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12

sören  
Van Laer  
BELGIUM



However it does require an equally enormous amount of preparation, starting by cutting out a false floor. Sören used flexible pipe that was soft enough to bend but strong enough to hold weight. Copper pipe would work for this. The ends were welded to metal disks screwed into the false floor. The pipe was wrapped in yarn and coiled around the flower tubes and each other in an organic way. The water alone without the plant material will pull the pipe downwards if it is not inflexible enough so experiment.









With the grass laid down, the mechanics holding the pipes up are concealed and they meander through the Sweet Peas, Aquilegia and Sandersonia aurantiaca. With the pipe mounted on a small but heavy metal disk this mechanic could be duplicated on a much smaller scale as a fascinating floral gift or a coffee table centrepiece

# ALEX WORLD



“The true value of design shines when it gives comfort and joy in daily life. I want flowers to be an integral part of the life of people: nature is the best guide and inspiration to lead you on the path of life.”

Alex Choi won the Interflora World Champion Floristry competition in 2015. From Korea where he works as a freelance florist, teacher and demonstrator, your correspondent Pavol Kaššák caught up with him as Alex presented a demonstration in Italy in April 2016.

His methods were influenced by many of Europe’s top designers proving that great floral construction techniques never date. They will become the timeless designs of this century and so if you haven’t tried them yet, here is your chance to take a closer look.

# CHOI





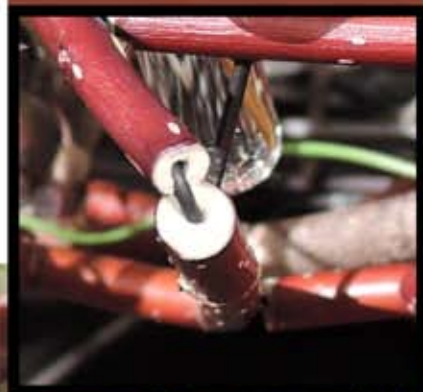
Alex named this arrangement Italy, as it was long and wide in the upper part. The lines of the work are simple, and in a ratio that is eye catching. The basic structure is made from lengths of wire which are covered in thin, black wool.

Alex is doing it (above) with the help of hand drill, into which he put the wire and let the wool furl on it. The rings wired together can be made of thin veneer or cane. The rest are just flowers in glass test tubes.





Alex made a dish from Cornus and wire. The base is solid (left) and an identical piece is put on this base, up the other way but without any sections filled in. The corners and top part of this second dish are wire, which can be put through the Cornus twigs. Just by bending the wire you can make as big a construction as you want.









This screen looked a little bit similar to his work from the World Cup as Alex used a curved circle with an opening to see all the plant material inside. The outer lines are made from yarn stretched around a basic wooden structure. This allows light in and of course a tantalizing glimpse of what is inside.







These two rose screens are prepared in the same way as the bowl. The basic structure is black wire which goes through Cornus twigs and makes a place for the test tubes and roses. The middle part of the work can rotate, to change the effect of the screens just by moving this section.



# ALEX CHOI

This work is inspired by Jeju Island, a volcanic cone off the coast of Korea. The basic structure is cane circles attached to a metal ring mounted on a stand. Rolled tubes made from laminated old magazine pages were attached, some of which had a small glass tube glued inside. This way the arrangement doesn't leave the borders defined by magazines.



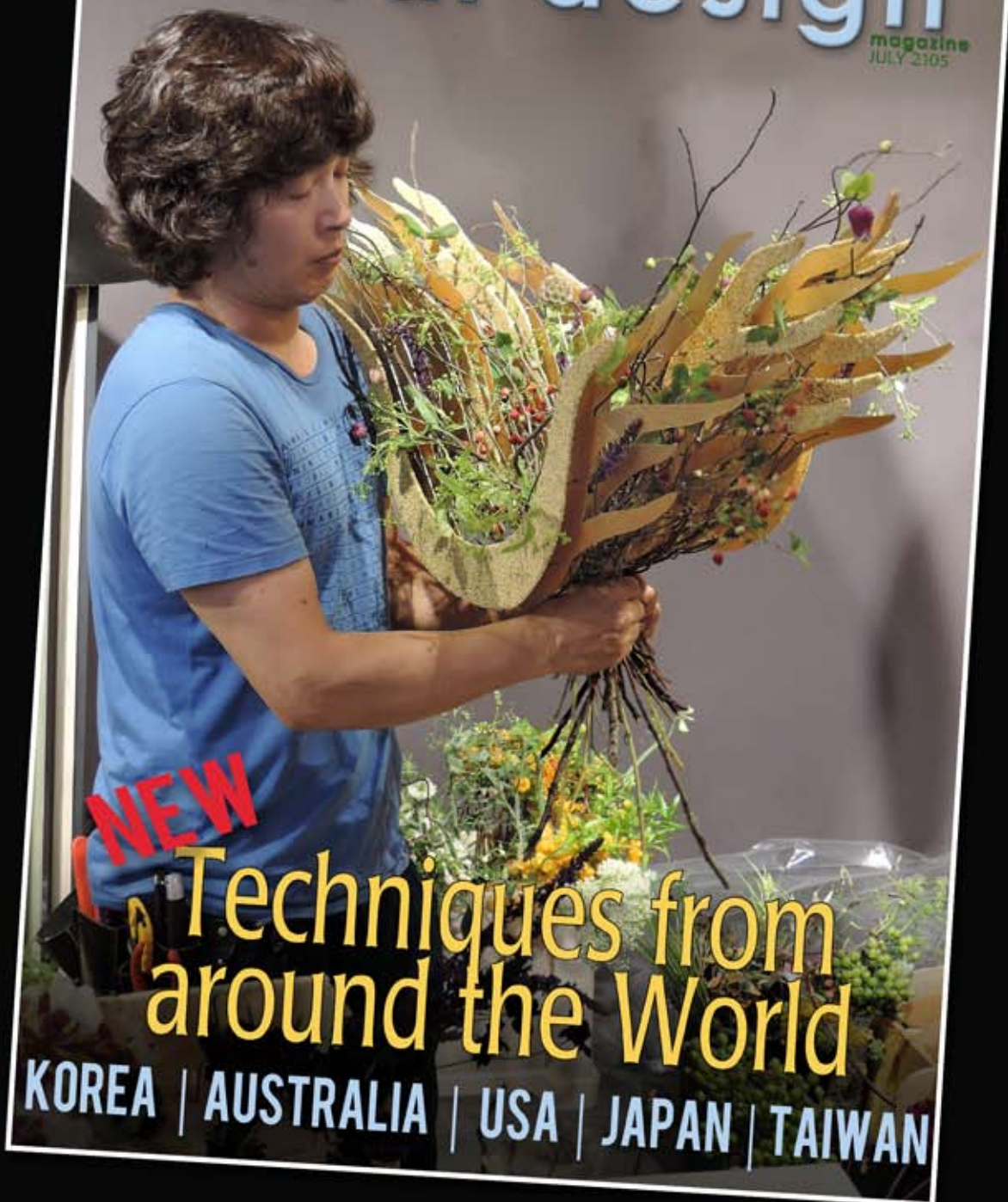


# ALEX CHOI

The last piece in the demonstration was this simple wreath made from glass tubes. They were held in place with wires that had been pushed into the base. An interesting touch is those big black triangles, which were made from either plastic or cardboard.



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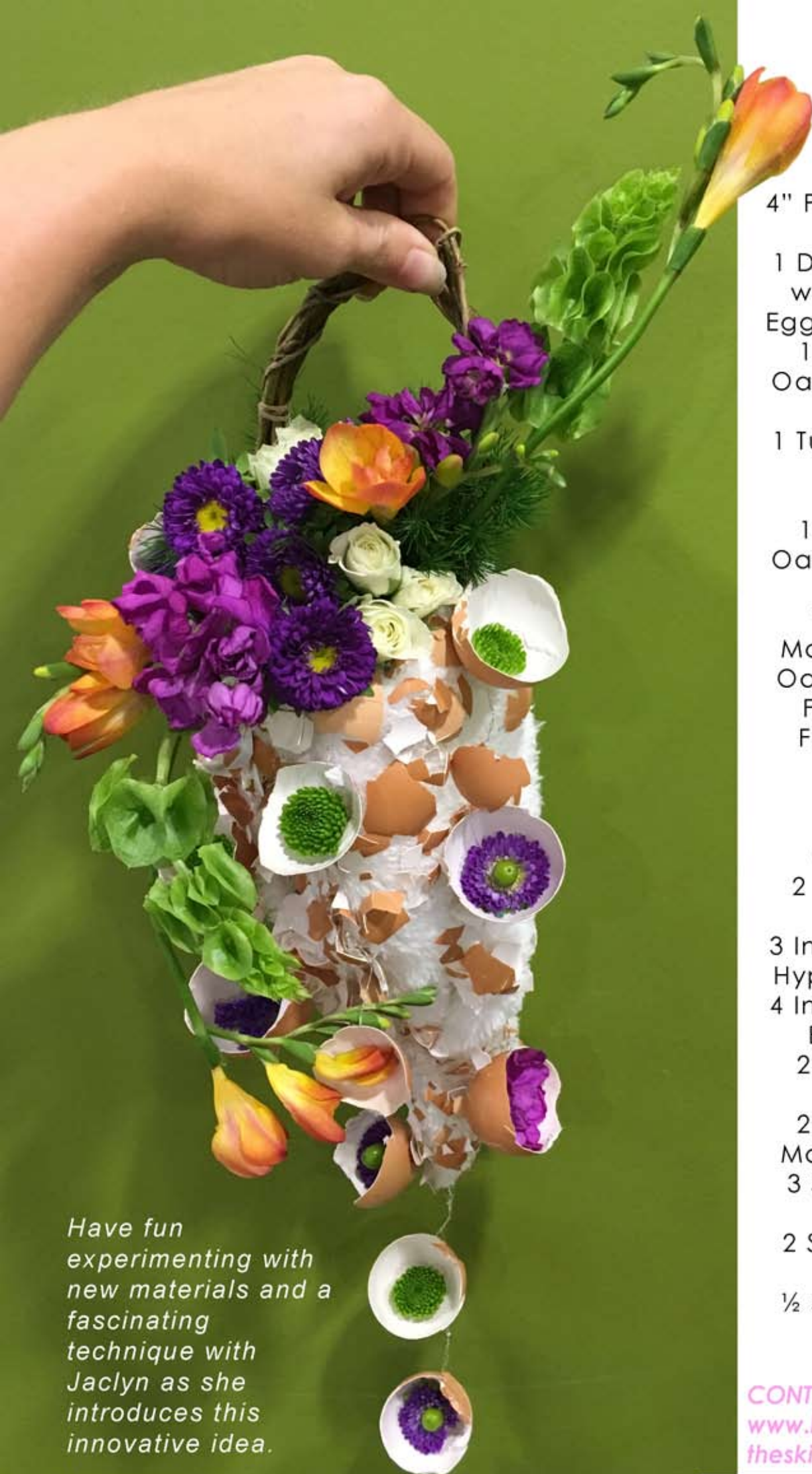


More of Alex Choi's work was extensively covered in detail in this edition of *floral design*. This is another unique opportunity for you to see what he created and how he did it resulting in him being awarded the title of the best florist in the world in 2015.

**CLICK HERE**

**for more information** or go to  
[www.floraldesignmagazine.com/download0715.html](http://www.floraldesignmagazine.com/download0715.html)





*Have fun experimenting with new materials and a fascinating technique with Jaclyn as she introduces this innovative idea.*

- Materials:**
- 4" Plastic Liner
  - Sherpa
  - 1 Dozen (empty & washed) Brown Egg Shells
  - 1 Roll Smithers Oasis Silver Bullion Wire
  - 1 Tube of Smithers Oasis Floral Adhesive
  - 1 Roll Smithers Oasis Natural Bind Wire
  - 1 Can Deign Master Tact 2000
  - Oasis Floral Foam
  - Floral Knife or Floral Clippers
  - Scissors

- Flowers:**
- Curly Willow
  - 2 Stems Bells of Ireland
  - 3 Individual Green Hypericum Berries
  - 4 Individual Green Button Mums
  - 2 Stems Purple Stock
  - 2 Stems Purple Matsumoto Aster
  - 3 Stems Orange Freesia
  - 2 Stems of White Spray Roses
  - ½ Stem of Green Ming Fern

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FLORIDA  
USA

# JACLYN GOUGH

Field of Flowers  
[www.fieldofflowers.com](http://www.fieldofflowers.com)

JACLYN GOUGH | **3** | NEW TECHNIQUE



**Step 1:** With a floral knife pierce 2 holes across from one another into the plastic liner. Then, insert Curly Willow into one hole and bring across to the other side to create a handle. Secure with bind wire.

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY JACLYN GOUGH

**Step 2:** Cut a piece of presoaked floral foam and place it into the plastic liner.



# IS EVERYTHING SECURE? HERE COME THE NEW IDEAS



**Step 3:** Cut a 10" x 10" square of Sherpa. Then, spray the plastic liner with Design Master Tact 2000. Place Sherpa over the plastic liner and form into the shape of a cone to cover your mechanics.

**Step 4:** Using half a pre-washed egg shell, use your floral knife to pierce a hole through the shell to create a hook with the silver bullion wire. Then, insert it through the Sherpa and secure with silver bullion wire. Repeat this 9 times.





**Step 5:** Crush the remaining empty egg shells with your hands, spray Design Master Tact 2000 on to the Sherpa and sprinkle egg shells on to the material. This will provide a great textural element to the design.

**Step 6:** Choose a Design Style (I chose the Hogarth Curve) and insert the Bells of Ireland to create your Line.

**Step 7:** Insert the remaining flowers into the foam reinforcing your dominant line and create a focal point with the Asters.

**Step 8:** Create depth and interest by gluing small blooms of Asters, Stock and Button Mums inside the egg shells. I glued a Hypericum Berry inside the centre of the Aster for an interesting look.



ALMOST  
THERE!

JACLYN GOUGH



NEW TECHNIQUE



**Step 9:** Finish off the back by inserting Ming Fern in the open space of the floral foam.



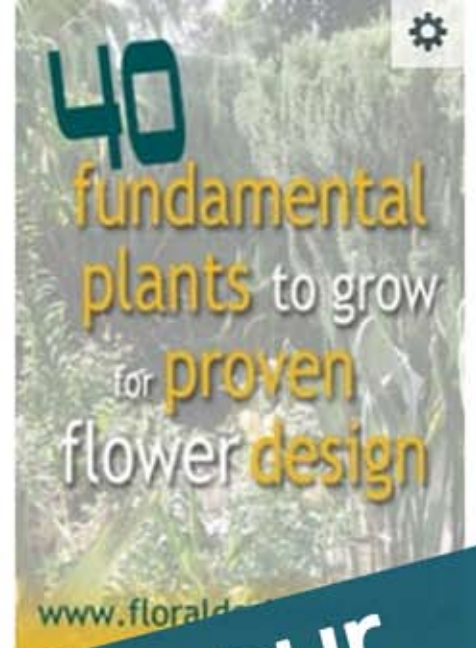
**Step 10:** Using Orange Freesia, create another line of movement next to the Bells of Ireland. I noticed at the end this really made the arrangement come together nicely.



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Chicago Illinois  
USA

Spring is trying to break through but all the clouds, gray and rain are making life so miserable here in the Midwest. So for this month's project I have chosen to make a planter to represent growth, show some colour and extend those lines to create a lot of negative space.

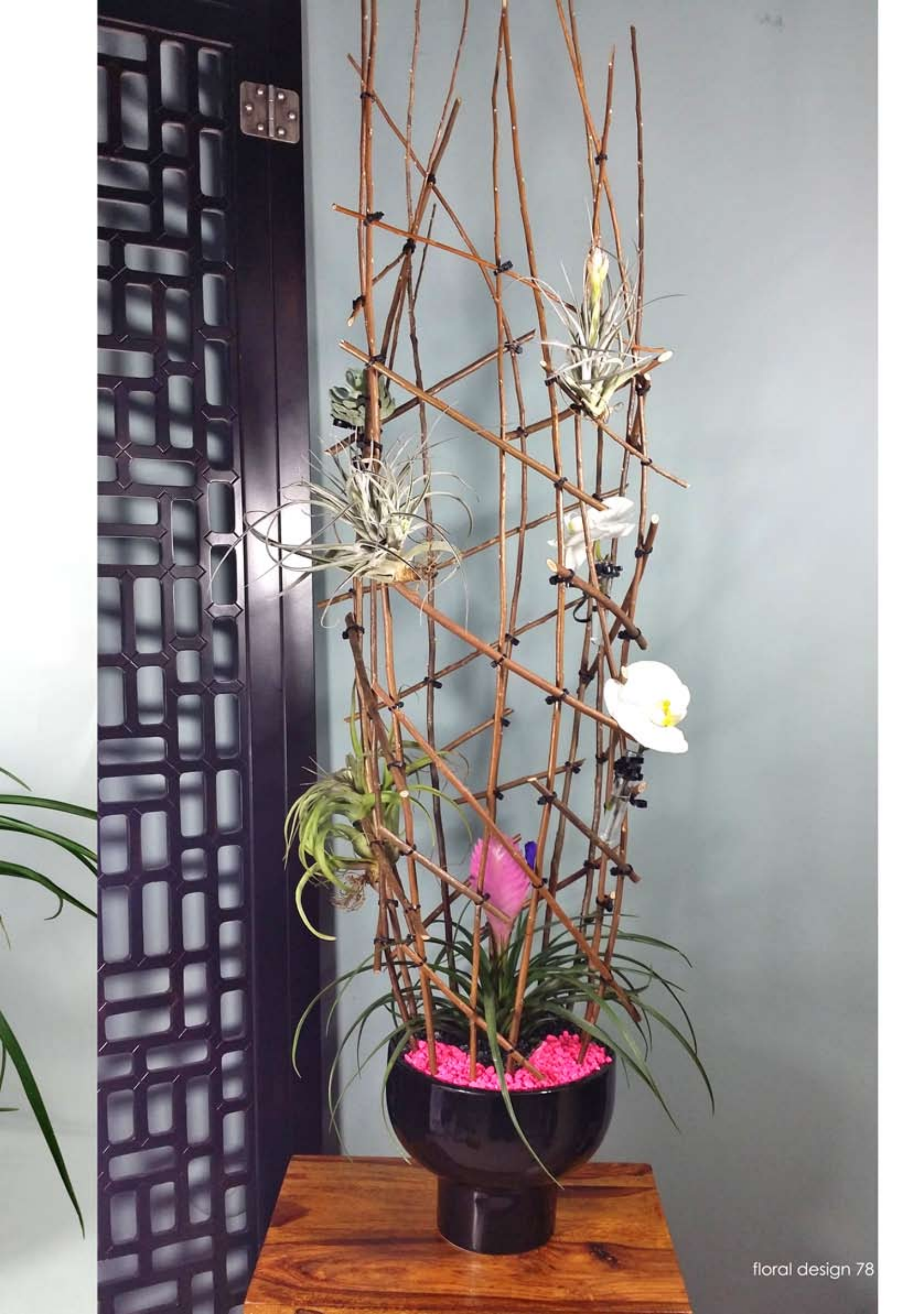
**Tools you need:**

Wire cutters,  
pruners, zip ties,  
U-glue and water  
tubes.

**Supplies you will need:** ceramic pot of your choice, plant or succulent and air plants, dry floral foam, fish gravel, Smyka branches, flowers to place in water tubes.



**Step One:** Plant your Tillandsia in the container you chose along with dry foam in the bottom of your vessel or along the perimeter for added stability. Add more potting soil if necessary.







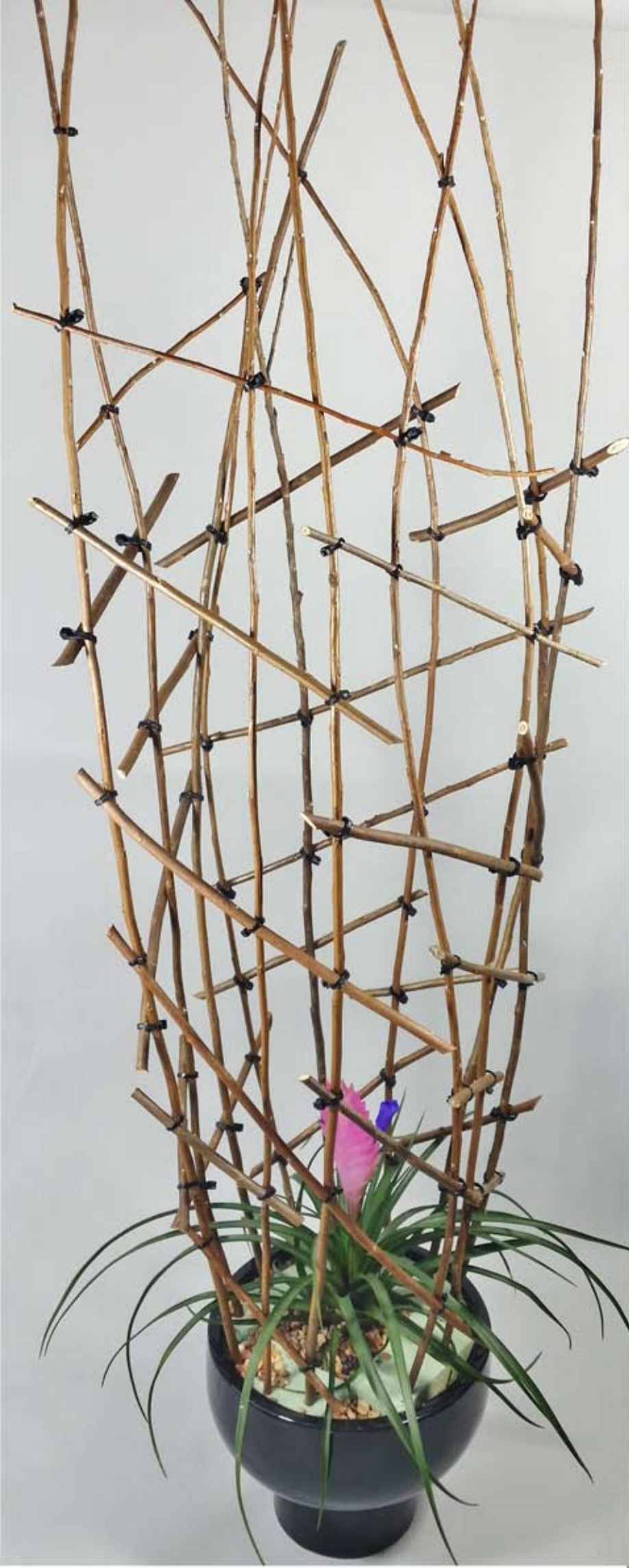
SUPPLIES



TOOLS

**Step two:** Insert Smyka branches in a cage shape along the perimeter of the container with enough gap to see through. Two inches (5 cms) is plenty.





**Step Three:** Attach smaller lengths of Smyka branches in a diagonal pattern for support and interest with U-glue tabs and zip ties.

**Step Four:** Attach air plants for more value and interest. Mist with pure water to keep plants alive and in direct light.



LISA BELISLE



**Step Five:** Fill the container with decorative Aquarium gravel in a nice pattern that coordinates with your plant colours and the room it will be placed in.



**Step Six:** Attach water tubes for fresh flowers to add colour and increase dollar value. Fill water tubes with a chemist squeeze bottle for hassle free filling.

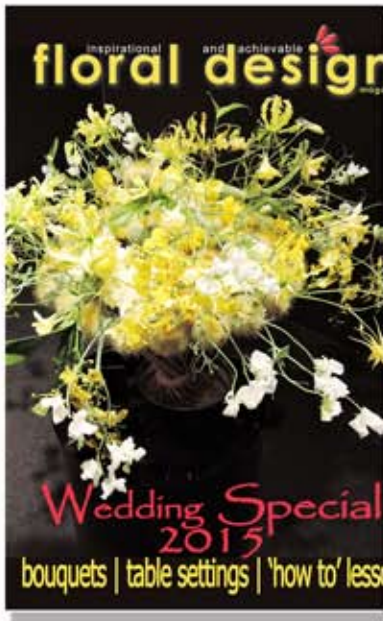


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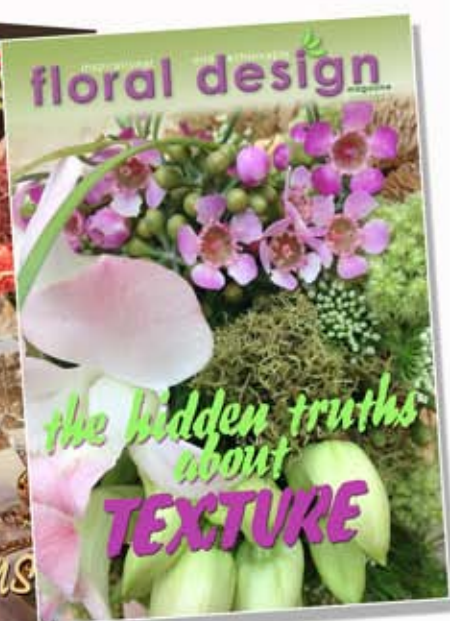
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