

FLORAL DESIGN AT TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN

Designing with flowers is a wonderful skill to learn and can bring immense enjoyment to various aspects of life, opening doors to a world of creativity and fulfillment. Whether it's for beautifying your own home, creating stunning arrangements for a wedding, or exploring a potential career in floristry, the uses of floral design are diverse and rewarding. Additionally, this skill can be valuable for interior designers, decorators, and even those working in the real estate industry. Incorporating floral elements into interior spaces can add a fresh and natural touch, elevating the overall aesthetic appeal of a room.

In 2008, internationally known and accredited floral design judge, teacher, and demonstrator, Margaret Taylor, designed the Floral Design Program, hosted at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG). The Floral Design Program allows you to learn floral design in a relaxing and encouraging atmosphere where all courses are taught by floral design judges accredited by the Garden Clubs of Ontario.

CERTIFICATES IN FLORAL DESIGN

There are two certificates of completion, which students may work towards. The Floral Design Certificate and the Advanced Floral Design Certificate. A graduation ceremony takes place at the Toronto Botanical Garden each year when we invite all students eligible to graduate to attend and receive their certificate in person.

To achieve the **Floral Design Certificate**, students are required to complete eight courses of instruction in four years. This includes five mandatory courses and any three elective courses chosen. Students must first complete Floral Design Fundamentals I and then continue with Floral Design Fundamentals II as these provide the foundational knowledge and are prerequisites to all other mandatory courses.

To achieve the **Advanced Floral Design Certificate**, students are required to have completed the Floral Design Certificate and six further courses of instruction in four years. These include three mandatory advanced courses and three elective courses that can be selected from a variety of themes.

To ensure the program develops students' knowledge based on the same set of skills, TBG does not offer exemptions on prerequisites for mandatory courses to those with outside experience. For inquiries related to requirements and prerequisites for mandatory classes, please contact margaret.taylor@gmail.com.

When registering online, please register only if you have the stated prerequisite, otherwise a cancellation fee will be applied.

Materials (floral and non) are not provided in the course unless stated otherwise – students are provided with material lists and encouraged to shop for and/or collect items from a variety of sources. Because of this, material fees can range from \$10 to \$75/week depending on the source of the materials and your choice.

To receive the Floral Design Certificate or Advanced Floral Design Certificate:

- Students must indicate they are pursuing the Floral Design Certificate or the Advanced Floral Design Certificate by contacting the Toronto Botanical Garden. Registration for the certificate can be done at any time.
- To achieve a Floral Design Certificate, students must have attended **all five mandatory** courses plus a **minimum of three elective** courses (totaling 96 hours of in-class learning) in a four-year period.
- To achieve an Advanced Floral Design Certificate, students must have completed the Floral Design Certificate and have attended **all three mandatory advanced courses** plus a **minimum of three elective** courses (totaling 72 hours of in-class learning) in a four-year period.
- Attendance in all course modules of Floral Design classes is required in order to receive the certificate. We are unable to transfer students to future classes to make up for individual classes missed in a course.
- Students who believe they have acquired the necessary courses and would like to receive their certificate are asked to notify the Toronto Botanical Garden to verify their attendance records.

OPTIONAL ENROLLEMENT (ATTENDANCE WITHOUT CERTIFICATION)

Certification of the Floral Design program is optional. Registration for the certificate is not mandatory in order to take Floral Design courses for fun/personal achievement.

Participants who are not interested in completing the certification are still required to complete Fundamentals I and II in order and will be required to have both Fundamentals I and Fundamentals II completed prior to taking any of the other mandatory classes. This ensures that all participants have the same knowledge base and helps to increase both learning and enjoyment in the program!

NEW! Elective courses can be taken for interest without taking prerequisites! Some prior knowledge in floral design is encouraged. Please contact the Toronto Botanical Garden if you are interested in this option.

If you wish to change from optional attendance to enrollment in the certificate course, please contact the Toronto Botanical Garden to transfer credit towards the certificate for any courses you have taken that fulfill requirements for the certificate.

COURSE COMPLETION AND MISSED CLASSES

Students who miss more than one class in a four-week course will not be able to complete the course and gain credit for it. Participants seeking their Floral Design Certificate, who miss more than one class during a course, may be required to re-take all or part of the course in order to complete their certification. Participants **MAY** move forward with taking the next course while they await an opportunity to re-take the course in which classes were missed.

Students who are not seeking their Floral Design Certificate are also encouraged, but not required, to re-take the course in which classes were missed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding registration, enrollment in the certificate program, transferring credits or registering in an elective course without the prerequisites, contact:

Toronto Botanical Garden

programsupport@torontobotanicalgarden.ca

For questions regarding prerequisites for mandatory classes, please contact:

Margaret Taylor

margaret.taylor@gmail.com

FLORAL DESIGN COURSES & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Students must first complete Floral Design Fundamentals I and then continue with Floral Design Fundamentals II as these provide the foundational knowledge and are prerequisites to all other mandatory floral design courses.

Mandatory Floral Design Courses

- Classic Design Fundamentals I
- Classic Design Fundamentals II (Prerequisite: Classic Design Fundamentals I)
- Creative Design (Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II)
- Modern Floral Design (Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II)
- Miniature, Small & Large Floral Design (Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II)

Advanced Floral Design Courses

- Abstract Design
- Advanced Creative Design (Prerequisite: Creative Design)
- Advanced Miniature, Small, & Large Floral Design (Prerequisite: Miniature, Small, & Large Floral Design)
- Advanced Modern Design (Prerequisite: Modern Floral Design)
- International Designers
- Period Floral Design

Floral Design and Advanced Floral Design Electives (selections will vary from term to term and new offerings will occasionally be added):

Most advanced electives do not require prerequisites, although completing Fundamentals I and Fundamentals II is encouraged to get the most out of the class! Exceptions are noted*.

- Designing with Glass
- Designing with Natural Materials—Wood, Branches, Foliage, Fruits, and Vegetables
- Designing with Roses, Lilies, Tropicals & Orchids
- Designing with Wool, Wire, Paper, and Metal
- Ikebana Sogetsu I
- *Ikebana Sogetsu II (Prerequisite or Concurrent: Ikebana Sogetsu I)
- *Foliage Manipulation (Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II)
- Modern Design Techniques
- *Special Occasion Florals (Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II)

Any advanced course may be taken as an elective if you have completed any required prerequisites.

FLORAL DESIGN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Mandatory Courses

Classic Design Fundamentals I

This course is the prerequisite to all other courses in TBG's Floral Design Certificate program. Learn the fundamentals such as how to select and condition flowers, how to use floral design equipment and tools, and how to achieve different types of designs.

Classic Design Fundamentals II

In this follow-up to Classic Design Fundamentals I, students gain a deeper understanding of traditional design and plant material as well as the importance of colour and colour harmonies. Discover a new design style each week: a hand tied bouquet, a vertical line design, a Hogarth Curve and an asymmetrical mass design.

Prerequisite: Classic Design Fundamentals I

Creative Design

Use what you've learned from Fundamentals I & II to explore the ground-breaking designs developed in the freedom-seeking 1960s, mostly in the U.S. Creative design styles such as parallel, satellitic, synergistic, underwater, and duo-designs will have you thinking outside the vase.

Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II

Modern Design

Learn about the innovative designs first developed in Italy in the 1960s, such as modern line, modern line mass, modern mass, and modern layer. These designs are stylish and sophisticated, and their characteristics contrast sharply with traditional designs.

Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II

Miniature, Small & Large Floral Design

Learn how to design on different scales - from tiny, magical miniature pieces to large impressive floral ones. Using traditional design characteristics, these designs will reflect traditional designs. Proportion and scale, for designing all sizes, will be discussed in detail. Create designs using both fresh and dried material.

Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II

Advanced Floral Design Courses

Abstract Design

Explore the concept of abstraction in the world of art and its application to floral art - abstract floral designs with and without containers and kinetic designs (stabiles, stamobiles, and mobiles) in which movement or the appearance of movement is dominant. We will learn how the principles and elements of art are applied in abstract floral design.

Advanced Creative Design

Due to its increasing popularity, creative design has continued to evolve to the current day based on the same principles of a strong dramatic quality, bold contrasts, asymmetrical balance, little or no transitional material, and tension within the elements. You will have an opportunity to create an angular design, a multi-rhythmic design, a tapestry design, and either a reflective design or a luminary design.

Prerequisite: Creative Design

Advanced Miniature, Small, & Large Floral Design

In this follow-up to the traditional mini, small, and large design course, the characteristics of modernism will prevail, and the elements and principles will reflect modern and even abstract principles and elements. There will be a more restrained use of plant material, asymmetry, unpredictable rhythm, and abstracted elements to bring out the more contemporary feeling we cannot achieve with traditional treatment.

Prerequisite: Miniature, Small, & Large Floral Design

Advanced Modern Design

In this continuation of modern designs, more advanced designs such as Modern Mass with Space, Freestyle, Nuevo Stile, and Abstract designs were created. These designs arose from the Italian Modern School who have created some of the most beautiful designs using simplicity as its guide.

Prerequisite: Modern Floral Design

International Designers

This course will explore the work of four international designers – Hitomi Gilliam (Canada), Per Benjamin (Sweden), Gregor Lersch (Germany) and Marie Françoise Duprez (France). The instructor has met and taken workshops with at least three of these designers and will be able to share their style and techniques with you. This course will provide you with the unique advances and talents that have emerged from their leadership and give you an international perspective in floral design.

Period Floral Design

A period design interprets the style and atmosphere of a particular historical period or artistic style. Designs will recreate the atmosphere, line, colour, and spirit of a bygone age. In this course we will study the Dutch Flemish style, the French Rococo style, the Victorian style, and the French Art Nouveau style.

Electives (selections will vary from term to term and new offerings will occasionally be added)

Designing with Glass

Glass is an exciting material to work with in design because of its characteristics of transparency, invisibility, ability to hold water, ability to show stems and lightness. Combined, these impacts create new possibilities for designers. Take this course and explore the possibilities of glass and what you can do using it from the lowly test tube to the large glass tower.

Designing with Natural Materials—Wood, Branches, Foliage, Fruits, and Vegetables

Each week a different natural material – wood, branches, foliage, fruits, and vegetables – will take centre stage. These elements have always been included in arrangements but here we will make them the stars of the show! We will study their forms and shapes, textures, sizes, colouring, and characteristics to discover the new and exciting ways they can be used. Join us on this journey of discovery.

Designing with Roses, Lilies, Tropicals & Orchids

These are truly special flowers for design, each having unique characteristics that offer something special for designers. Explore the history of these flowers and key horticultural characteristics, including their diverse colours, forms, and textures. You will also learn how to create outstanding traditional and contemporary arrangements.

Designing with Wool, Wire, Paper, and Metal

These inorganic materials can be added to an arrangement as an accessory unless otherwise prescribed. They are becoming more common as design elements, especially in freestyle and abstract arrangements. Learn how to use them to add creativity and pizzaz to your designs!

Sogetsu Ikebana I

Ikebana is the ancient Japanese art form of flower arranging. The Sogetsu School of Ikebana reflects modern lifestyles and focuses on encounters between two ever-changing entities: humans and nature. This course will provide an overview of Ikebana and Sogetsu and we will do two designs per week to exemplify the principles of Sogetsu Ikebana.

Ikebana Sogetsu II

This extension of Sogetsu Ikebana I will create greater depth of understanding of the following by continuing to do two more arrangements each week. This course may run concurrently with Ikebana Sogetsu I.

Prerequisite or Concurrent: Ikebana Sogetsu I

Foliage Manipulation

Manipulating foliage is one of the most important techniques in floral design and indispensable in modern, contemporary, and abstract work. Manipulating foliage in a design can create rhythm, interest, impact, and abstraction. In this hands-on course learn how to use techniques like rolling, plaiting, braiding, and boondoggling on leaves such as aspidistra, flax, and palm.

Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II.

Modern Design Techniques

This course focuses on techniques which can enhance a wide variety of styles. Included will be foliage manipulation techniques (not included in the foliage manipulation course), armatures, midollino swirls, and creating wire jewelry. A fun course with lots to learn!

Special Occasion Florals

Create floral designs for special occasions! Each design from bouquets, corsages, boutonnieres, floral cakes, and centerpieces can be used for Valentine's Day, weddings and anniversaries, sweet sixteens, birthdays, and graduations. Learn how to decorate the venue such as the church, reception, or for al fresco dining.

Prerequisites: Classic Design Fundamentals I & II.