

Notes: How To Create An Asymmetrical Triangular Vase Arrangement



**Rittners Floral School
Boston, Ma.**



Dr Steve gets very excited about this design!

Hi, Welcome to The Rittners School of Floral Design in Boston. It's a pleasure welcoming you to this distance education workshop "How To Create An Asymmetrical Triangular Vase Arrangement." We think you'll really enjoy this lesson!

This arrangement is fun to do and people love it when they see it.

Unlike a table centerpiece that is viewed all the way around, this arrangement is one sided. That means it has a front which is displayed here, and a back side (which while covered with foliage is not as impressive as the front.)



Contents That You Will Need To Create This Arrangement:

- °A Container (We used an Urn)
- °Foam
- °Bells of Ireland (1 bunch)
- °Roses (8-10 flowers depending upon the size of the rose and your container)
- °Lilies (We used 3 stems. Your mileage may vary)
- °Baker fern

The contents are approximate depending upon the size of your container, what materials are available to you, their level of development, how dense you like your design, and your own specific tastes.

Background on The Asymmetrical Triangular Vase Arrangement

The asymmetrical triangular vase arrangement is one of a group of flower arrangements that are called various names. We call them “line arrangements,” “linear designs,” “geometric designs” or even “high style” arrangements. All of these varied names refer to the same genre of designs.



Typical geometric designs would include things like L shapes, horizontals, crescents, triangles, vertical designs and inverted T's.

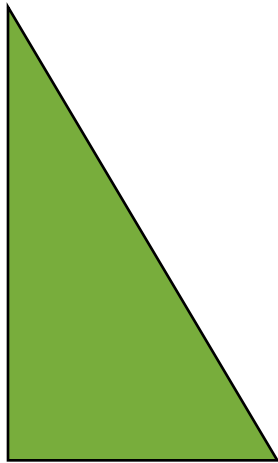
Sometimes these are known as “classical” styles because they’ve been around for a long time. They endure because they are pretty and give great value.



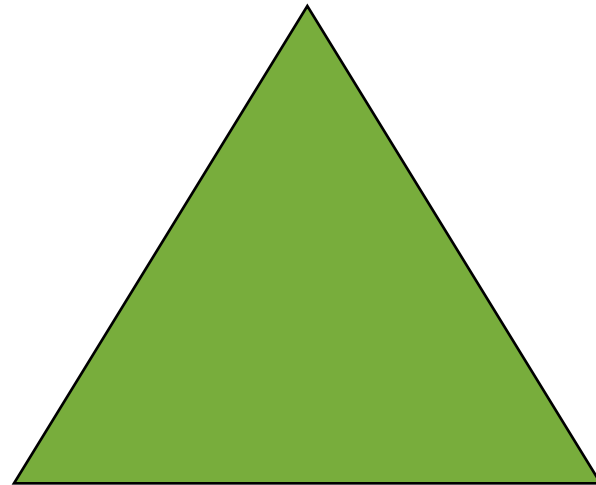
If you are looking for amazing techniques and approaches that will strengthen your designing, the ability to do geometrical designs gives you a variety of beautiful options.

What Makes the Asymmetrical Triangle Different from Other Triangles?

There are a variety of triangles that we can create using flowers.

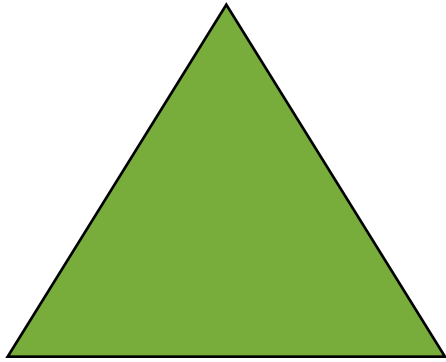


A right triangle has a 90 degree angle at the lower left side. (Don't you love those old math classes?)

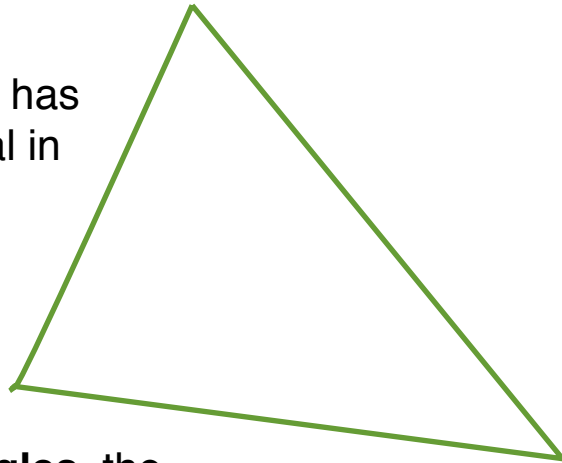


The Equilateral Triangle has three sides that are equal in length.

What Makes the Asymmetrical Triangle Different from Other Triangles?



The **equilateral triangle** has three sides that are equal in length.



In **asymmetrical triangles**, the three sides are unequal in length. This triangle tends to be less formal and a little more visually dynamic than the equilateral.



This arrangement looks complex, but I am going to show you a couple of very neat trade secrets that will enable you to create designs like this one, quickly and very easily!



Start With Your Container:

Containers are among the floral designer's best friends. Like your live friends, each container has its own unique qualities and eccentricities.

We've chosen an urn for several reasons. Urns can be large and can be used to create fairly good sized designs.

They also can easily be used for floral designs for both wedding and tribute (funeral) use. Because they are dignified and multitask well (and don't feel overly "funereal") they can be used for multiple purposes and occasions. You may sometimes find them in hotel lobbies or even used for florals in large areas in museums. If you have a large home, a design in an urn can be used in an architectural niche, bay window or perhaps placed somewhere on a pedestal.



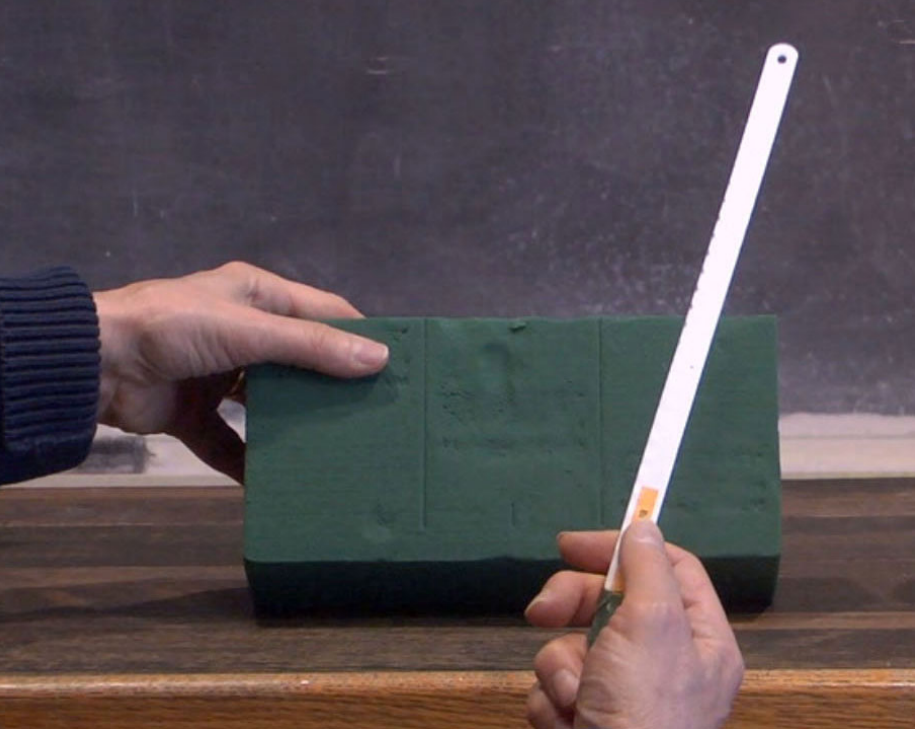


There is of course.... **large**... and then there is**LARGE, LARGE, LARGE!!!**

The container that we are using for this lesson (the green base) is an urn container. It is around 9.75 inches tall and around 8 inches across at the top. This is actually a good size urn, but there are some urns that are really huge!

If you don't have an urn container, or you would prefer to use something else, you could create this design in any large vessel.

The use of a large container (but not as huge as the one at the left) **will help you get an impressive looking asymmetrical triangle arrangement.**



Saturate your foam with water. Because this container is a rather deep one, we needed 2-3 blocks of foam.

We've taken one to one and a half blocks, broken them into smaller pieces and tightly packed the container almost up to the top with those pieces. (You can easily cut foam with a hacksaw blade.)

We then wedged another block of saturated wet foam on the top of the container. Notice that it comes up above the edge of the container by a couple of inches.

Some designers also like to use florist tape (rather sticky) over the foam to attach to several sides of the container to hold the foam in place securely. You can do that if you desire, but I find that if the foam is wedged tightly into the container, that alone is often sufficient.





Let's start with one stem of a linear flower. Bells of Ireland will work very nicely for us. (Although you could easily substitute glads, delphinium, snapdragon or any linear flower) Linear flowers will give us a very large arrangement.



Place one Bell to the left and one to the right of the first Bells of Ireland. These are both a little shorter.

This arrangement will be one sided meaning that there is a front side facing the viewer and a less important back side.



**Front of design
facing us.**

Now here is the first trick. **Let's use our linear flowers to establish the overall shape of this arrangement.**

We've created the height. Now place one Bell over to the lower left as shown.....





Place a Bells of Ireland over to the right. You now have the overall shape of an asymmetrical triangle.

Another shorter segment of Bells of Ireland is placed over to the front lower left to help to create a feeling of depth in this arrangement.

This is an immensely important step. We defined the overall shape of the design using linear flowers. You can use this same trick to define many shapes besides the asymmetrical triangle that I am teaching you today!



It is considered good workmanship to cover our mechanics (meaning the foam!) A few pieces of baker fern placed at an angle help to do this.



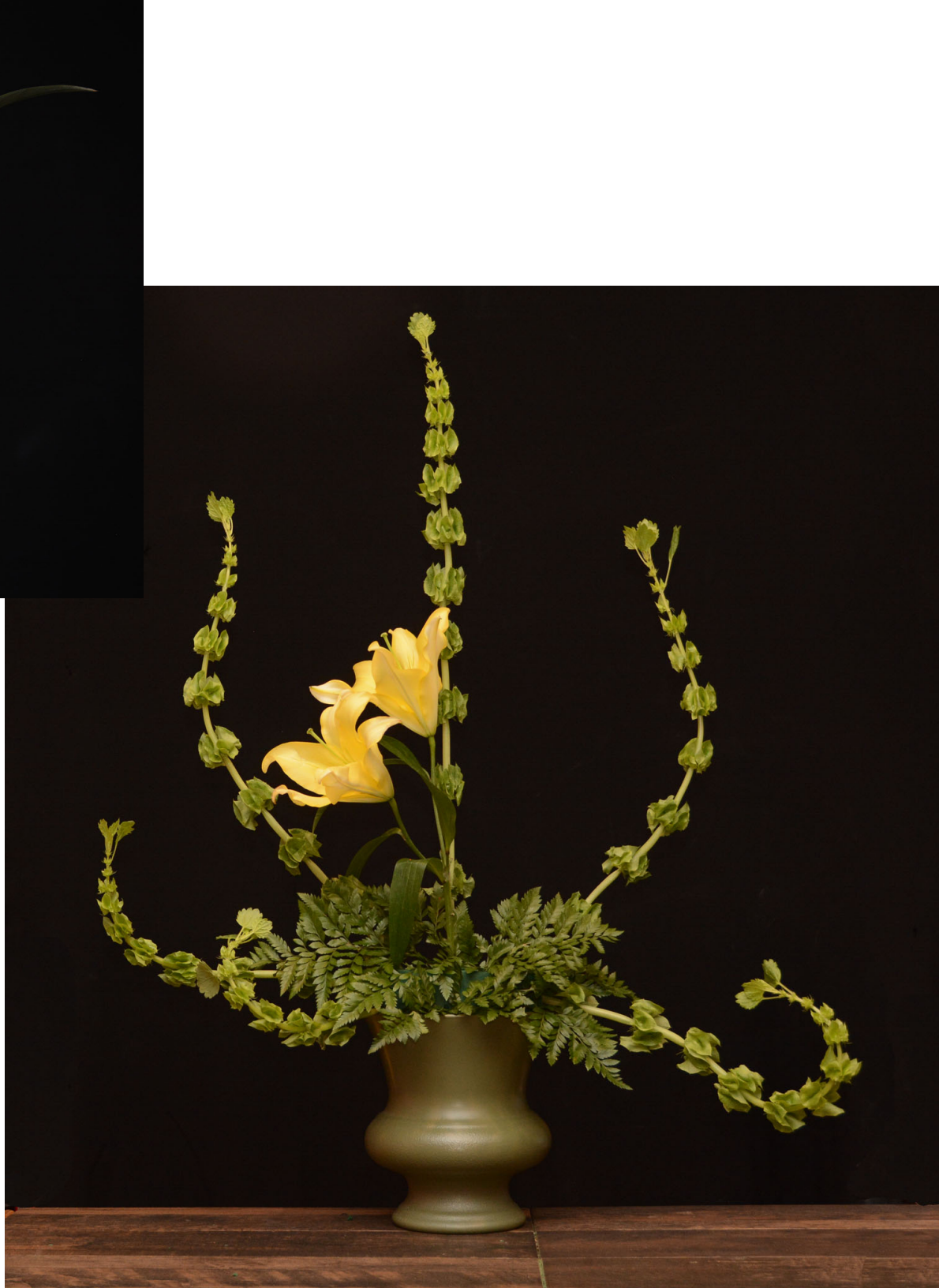


It is easier to cover our mechanics now rather than after we have our other flowers placed into the arrangement. We could also place a few pieces of foliage on the back side of the arrangement either now or later.



Lilies are big.. bold and beautiful. Wait till you see what we are going to do with them!

Notice that we have removed the pollen from the flowers. (The pollen can stain the flower, clothing, linen, etc.)





A second stem. Notice I am placing it facing towards the right. **It makes the design feel more natural and less rigid if we vary the direction that the flowers are placed.** This is another trick of the trade that you can use in a variety of designs.



As simple as 1, 2, 3!





Here is a third trick.

Use some huge flowers to simply fill in the center of an arrangement.

True I used lilies. I only needed three stems.

This could be done with hydrangea or any other large flower. How many? It would depend upon the shape and size of the flowers.

Still, even if I needed six stems, I think you can see that you could create a very showy arrangement with minimal materials and very little effort.

We could stop here...
But wait... there's more!



Let's start adding some roses. This will fill in the arrangement a bit more. It also gives nice contrast in shape and color. Place them in between the Bells of Ireland.



The roses add reinforcement to the overall shape, yet the design still feels uncrowded with plenty of negative space between the flowers.



This could be a natural ending place for this arrangement, but the center and center bottom are rather empty.





A couple of roses and an additional Bells of Ireland fill in towards the center of the arrangement. If you haven't already done so, add some foliage to the back side of the design to cover the mechanics/ foam.



Some Questions To Consider:

- 1. What group of designs does the asymmetrical triangle belong to?**
- 2. What are at least three other designs that are in the same category?**
- 3. What is the difference between an equilateral triangle and an asymmetrical triangle?**
- 4. What are two reasons to use an urn container for this arrangement?**
- 5. Describe several life cycle events for which designs created in urns can be used.**
- 6. The asymmetrical triangle is commonly made to be viewed on all sides. True or false?**
- 7. Where are several places that an urn arrangement may be placed?**
- 8. Asymmetrical triangles can only be made in an urn container. True or false?**
- 9. This design illustrates that you need to jam a lot of flowers into an arrangement to come up with an impressive look. True or false? Explain.**
- 10. There were three tricks Dr Steve emphasized in this lesson that make creating asymmetrical triangles quick and easy. What were the three tricks?**
- 11. Could these tricks be used in other arrangements? Explain.**



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The ability to create asymmetrical triangles further expands your ability to do linear/geometric designs. This arrangement is easy to make especially if you follow the tricks of the trade that we taught in this lesson.

The ability to do this design is another amazing technique/approach that will impress people and increase your floral designing options.

Please remember to add some water to the design every couple of days. The flowers (and the foam) like that!

At Rittners Floral School in Boston we provide floral design instruction that includes a wide range of different styles and techniques.

Folks from all over the US as well as abroad, learn floral art skills from Rittners Floral School because we are great floral designers, and just as importantly because, as you can see, we are outstanding teachers!!