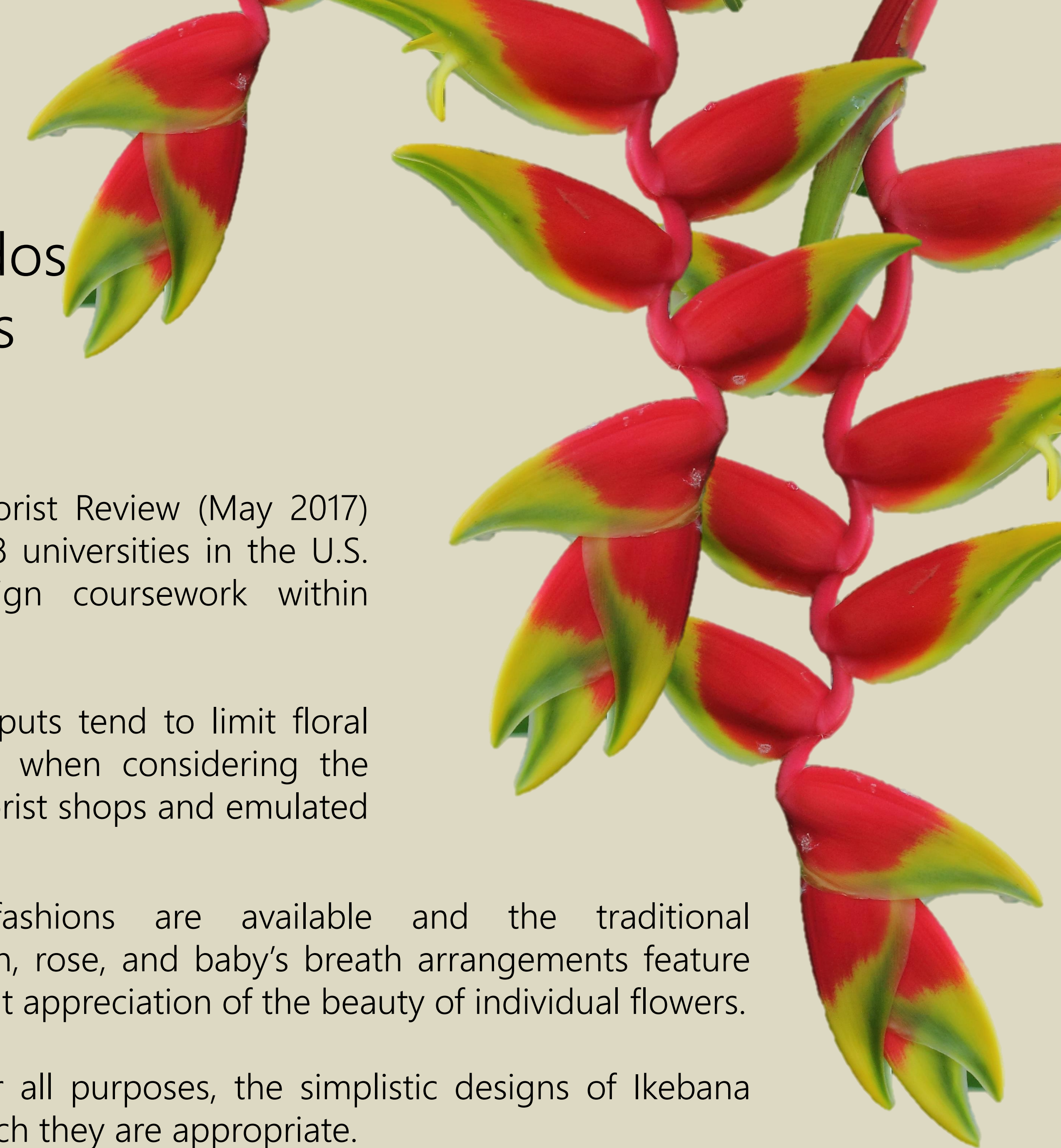




Floral Design Using Tropicals



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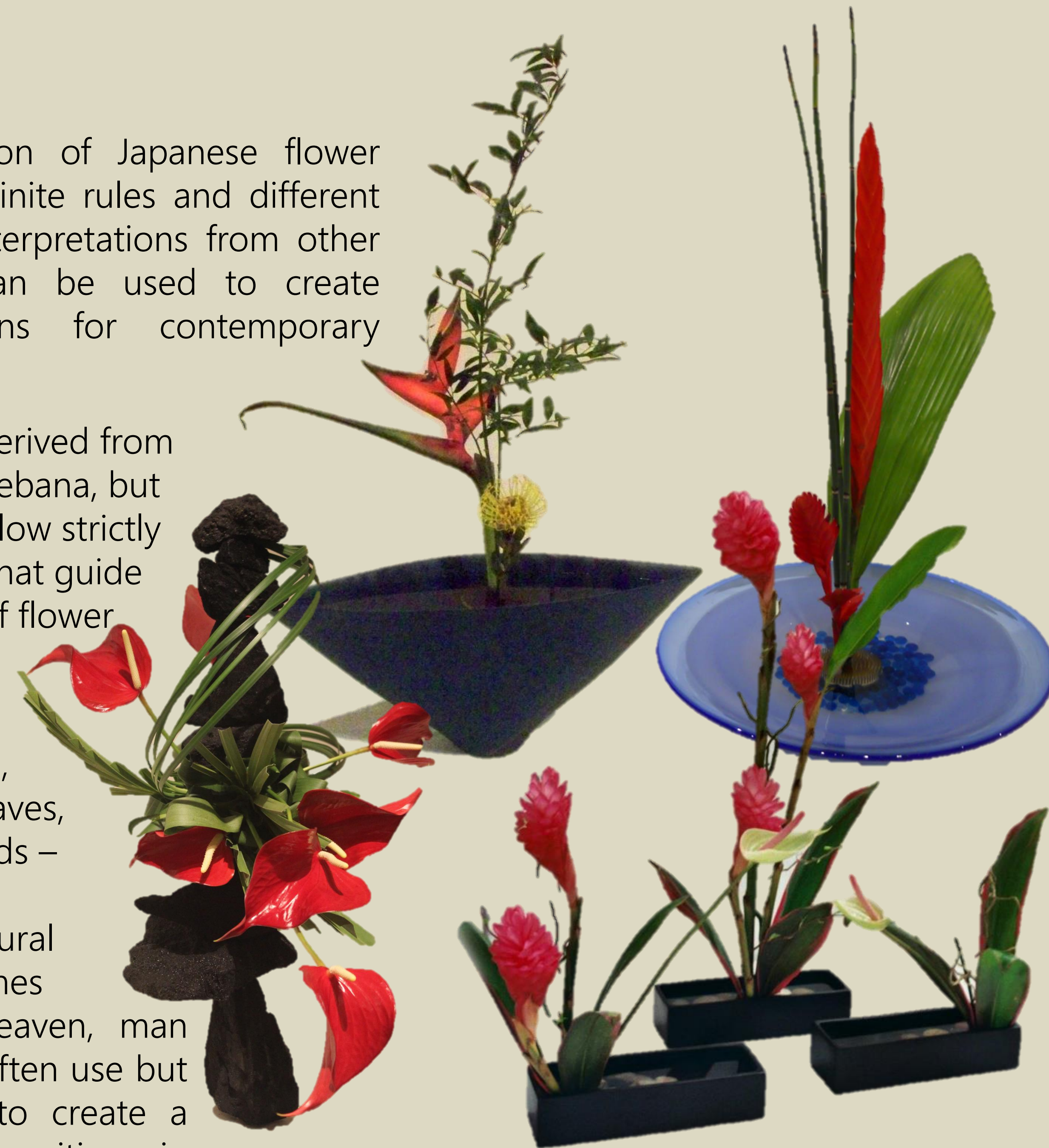


Ikebana

While the tradition of Japanese flower arranging has definite rules and different styles, modern interpretations from other Asian cultures can be used to create innovative designs for contemporary spaces.

Line designs are derived from the traditions of ikebana, but do not need to follow strictly the stylized rules that guide the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

All types of plant materials – flowers, branches, dried leaves, fruits and seed pods – can be used. The designs reflect natural features – sometimes referred to as heaven, man and earth – and often use but a few elements to create a harmonious composition in balance with a carefully chosen container.



According to a recent Florist Review (May 2017) interview, there are only 18 universities in the U.S. that provide floral design coursework within horticulture departments.

The costs of the floral inputs tend to limit floral design classes, especially when considering the large pieces created by florist shops and emulated in college courses.

Different styles and fashions are available and the traditional chrysanthemum, carnation, rose, and baby's breath arrangements feature masses of flowers that limit appreciation of the beauty of individual flowers.

Although not suitable for all purposes, the simplistic designs of ikebana have many settings in which they are appropriate.

Sculptural pieces

Arrangements become sculptures that are balanced between the flowers, the form, and the setting. While similar concepts can be applied to familiar temperate flowers, it is the tropical lifestyle that these designs draw the observer in.



In choosing flowers for the home, one or two tropicals coupled with simple line designs allow appreciation of individual flowers and the complementing foliage and branches.



Wedding and event flowers

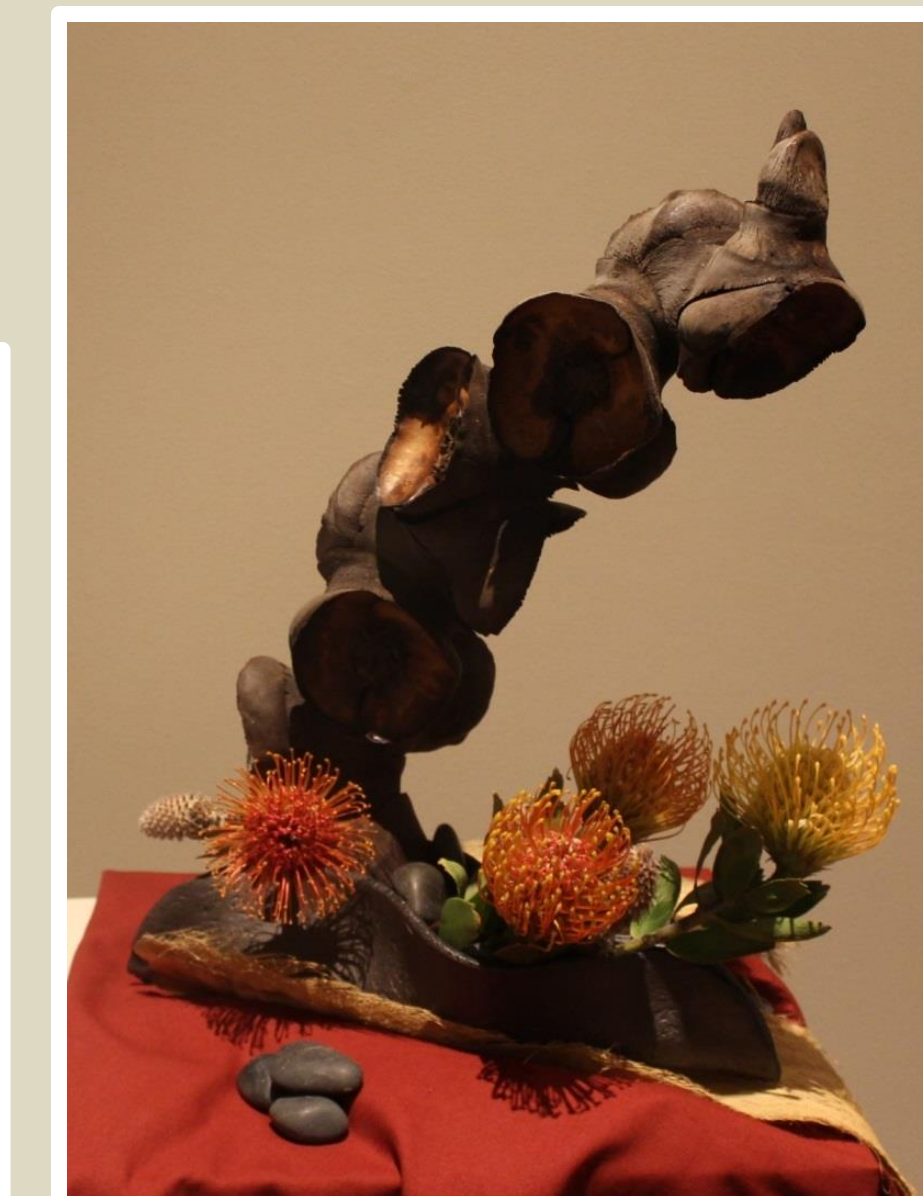
"Soft" tropicals, such as orchids, *Globba*, *Gloriosa*, plumeria, tuberose, and others can be incorporated into wedding work and small designs.



Enlist art and architecture students in your classes to stimulate your horticulture students. Flowers can be as much an artistic medium as canvases and paint.

The use of a few flowers can make a floral design class affordable, at least at the university level

The bold tropicals (bird of paradise, gingers, heliconia, anthurium, and others) are unique in their colors and structures such that one, two, or even three can be used to create interesting compositions sold for a good price, yet control costs.



Fewer flowers are used so that each flower in the creation stands out but is part of a harmonic balance. In addition, fruits, vines and seed pods can be used.

The "Softer Side of Tropicals" mixes tropical-zone flowers with temperate-zone flowers creating new textures and an exotic design. Travis Rigby, Florists Review