

“Hanadome”

Fusion of Principles of Design & Japanese Spirit on Flowers

By Yoko KASAI



Hanadome without any tool in salad bowl

Hanadome Is More Familiar to You

Hanadome flower arrangements please people who look at them, for they recognize the beauty of nature through them. *Hanadome* arrangements turn imagination into creation based on certain principles of design. You might not be able to find them in some Japanese traditional art. They are not always absolute for the impressive design. The principles of design are helpful to make arrangements as guidelines in other fields. They show why some designs are more successful and pleasing. If you understand what design is, *Hanadome* will be more familiar to you. We perceive some of the principles as balance, rhythm and harmony in nature and in art. Design will be expressed by combining such elements as space, and form of line, of texture, of color of flowers and of a vase through the concept. Design should be beautiful and functional as nature is. If your flower arrangement were the same as a bouquet of flowers

in a bucket at a flower shop, nobody would be satisfied. The natural flowers are beautiful, and they make us light up. The arrangement that you created should be more pleasing and comfortable. If you have a hesitation in design, the principles will help you. If you learn what they are, you will get how to appreciate works in art and in design.

What Hanadome Is

Hanadome is not a subject to be learned for manners. It should be done as design with principles. They are intended to help put in place all elements such as lines, shape, colors and space of flowers and vases. There are emphasis focused on an arrangement, proportion fitted for the vase, and the scale of quantity and the size of each material. This concept is used in other design styles like those of apparel and interiors.

Hanadome arrangement keeps flowers to support each other by balance without using any tools. This is a fundamental difference from other flower arrangement schools. Most Occidental flower arrangements make geometric patterns of forms such as triangle shapes and round shapes filled by a variety of flowers with oases. Their works are expressed by colors characterizing each flower. In some Japanese traditional styles, trees are supported by *kenzan*, or frog, together with flowers mainly to copy the scene of nature.

Trees Used as Lines

As well as color, lines and shapes are vital elements for design. Think of mankind, buildings, clouds in the sky...all visual objects are composed of

lines. There are a variety of lines such as dot lines, slim lines, bold lines, straight lines, curved lines, etc.

Bold lines sometimes form a shape. Lines express the border of entity and space. Trees are essential materials for *Hanadome* because they are used for drawing up the lines. In Japan, compared with some other countries, we have more sorts of trees. Most trees with branches are themselves arts and works created in nature. The weather gets the shape varied. Japanese are originally an agricultural tribe. It can be said that in Japan art and culture were born in coexistence with nature. Believing all trees as gifts of nature, we do not cut some of them so easily. Cutting trees is the job of the professional pruner.

Another example of culture connected with trees is found at Horyuji temple in Nara built in the 8th century, which is the oldest wooden building in the world. It is built by wood out of forests grown in the local area. The other example reminds us of a ditty box made in the 8th century. Wooden sculptures or statues of Buddha are alive under Japan's wet climate. We can also find



Portraying melancholy felt by one of heroines in “The Tale of Genji”



"View in the Mountains of Totomi Province"

woodblock prints in the Edo era (1603-1867) sealed off from the outside world, which produced *ukiyo-e* and art depicted by lines favored by town people.

Afterwards it gave an impact to European impressionist artists such as Claude Monet, Van Gogh and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. *Ukiyo-e* expresses various emotions of characters by straight and curved thin lines. Katsushika Hokusai's handwork piece "View in the Mountains of Totomi Province" describes a scene of dynamic wood sawing only by length of a diagonal line. Ando Hiroshige's woodblock print titled "53 Stations of Tokaido" also presents various scenes alongside the Tokaido highway, which got the viewers inspired.

The lines used as an element of design come from trees, showing affection of our feeling and movement psychologically and artistically. Some thick vertical styles of *Hanadome* signify dignity and gravity. You can easily notice that horizontal lines of flowers show restful and relaxing feelings when put on fireplaces or in living rooms. Diagonals in triangle forms propose action. Zigzag lines express excitement and aggression. Like these, lines as colors are indispen-

Photo : Author



Hakone Posting Station in the series of "53 Stations of Tokaido"

sable to explain what arrangements express in the designs. We experience the same feeling in *suibokuga* ink paintings depicted by Maruyama Okyo (in the Edo period). Lines of curves, diagonals or verticals are seen drawn in most Japanese arts and prints over centuries. For Japanese the trees are commonly recognized not only as lines but also as a part of nature that eventually produced art of lines.

In our traditional culture, we find a variety of arts with trees in nature. While colors are emphasized in the arts of Europe, ours can be called art of lines. Lines connected with colors of flowers are more effective and functional in *Hanadome* design.

the world of Japanese traditional flower arrangement as well as tea ceremonies, the same principle of design is contained. It is implicit in any culture. *Hanadome* should be interpreted also by learning the same principle. Culture has gradually been processed in replacement by time or place, or by interacting with other countries under local circumstances. *Hanadome* is a global arrangement for people to enjoy anytime and anywhere. **JS**

Bibliography:

"Inside Today's Home" by Ray & Sarah Faulkner



Portraying the grace and dignity of a lady in "The Tale of Genji"

Yoko Kasai is CEO of Treschic Interior Flowers. A graduate of Hokusei Gakuen Women's Junior College, she worked with Lufthansa German Airlines. She studied interior design at Anchorage Community College as well as at Alaska Pacific University in the United States, and is a member of the Garden Club. In 2006 she published a book titled "Hanadome."