

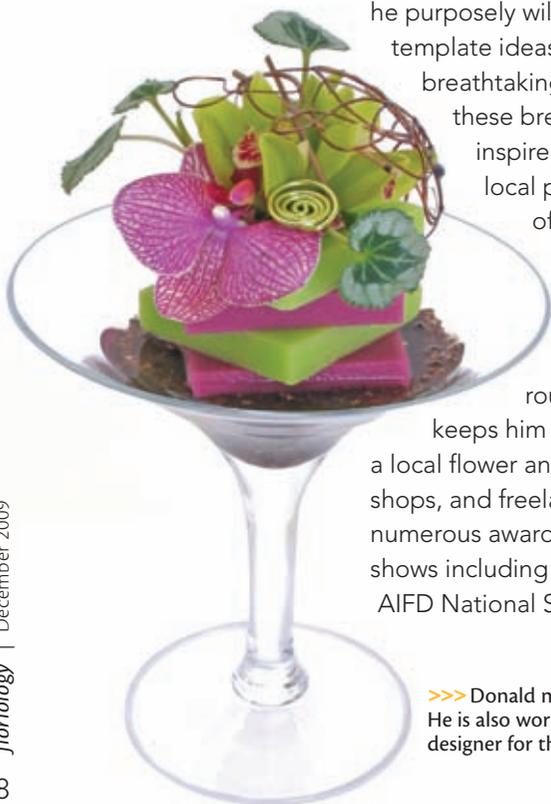
by John Parkinson

# NATURE IS HIS Muse

*Donald Yim's designs are inspired by his culture and his surroundings*

**D**onald Yim, AIFD, CPFD, began his passion for the art of floral design working with his sister in Hong Kong. Once he found design was his true calling, he began his professional development by taking American Floral Service (AFS) classes, first in Asia, and then in Vancouver, Canada, which later became home. Teachers John Haines and Hitomi Gilliam helped him to develop his technique and style, and he credits Hitomi with helping to develop a greater appreciation for nature and to show it in his design. As such, he incorporates materials like willows or branches into his arrangements. For design inspiration, he will set out fresh floral and other materials on a work table and see if they can blend together. In the midst of the creative process, he purposely will walk away to relax and contemplate ideas. As Vancouver is well-known for its breathtaking beauty, Donald will go out during these breaks to enjoy the outdoors and get inspired by something he might see at a local park. "Nature is the biggest source of my inspiration," says Donald. He views his style as being a fusion of eastern and western influences, encompassing his Asian culture with the natural beauty of his surrounding environment. His schedule keeps him busy as he is the creative director at a local flower and garden center, he teaches workshops, and freelances. Donald's work has won him numerous awards and he has participated in multiple shows including the Philadelphia Flower Show and AIFD National Symposium. 

>>> Donald melds eastern and western styles together. He is also working with the BloomNet team as a freelance designer for the upcoming 2010 Everyday Selection Guide.



## ARRANGEMENT NECESSITIES

- \* FRESH Phalaenopsis Orchids, heather
- \* HARD GOODS Oasis Rainbow Foam, river rocks, and Italian ruscus berries.
- \* PREP TIME 5-10 minutes
- \* SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE \$34.98

*Designer:*  
DONALD YIM

*Experience:*  
20 YEARS

*Shop:*  
CREATIVE  
DIRECTOR AT  
WEST VAN FLORIST

*Location:*  
VANCOUVER, BC

*Awards:*  
\* PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
AWARDS 2001-2003

\* FLOWERS CANADA  
INDUSTRY CHOICE  
AWARD 2001, 2002



>>> Nature plays a significant role in his style.