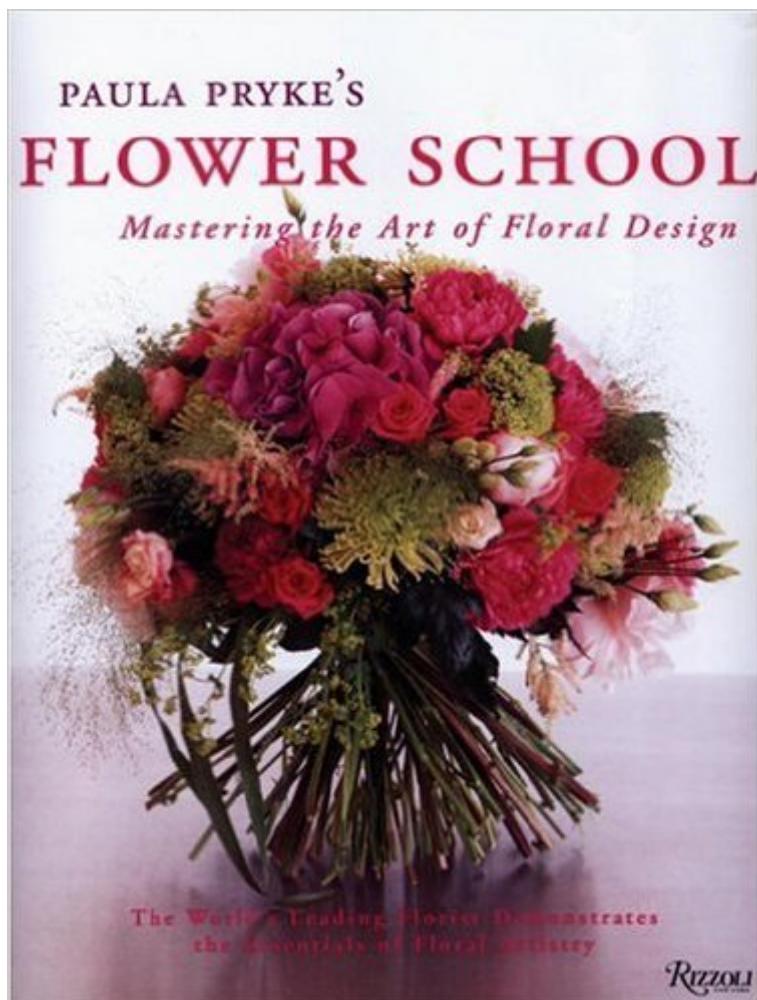


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# Paula Pryke's Flower School: Mastering The Art Of Floral Design



## **Synopsis**

Paula Pryke is one of the world's leading floral designers and an inspiration to novices and experts alike. Her flower school in London, which attracts students worldwide, provides one of the most sought-after credentials for anyone serious about mastering the art of floral design. Now with Flower School, Pryke offers the essentials of her London program in gorgeously illustrated text, allowing readers to feel as if they have enrolled in her school. Simple step-by-step instructions and clearly defined photographs make even the most ambitious design achievable. Drawing on her signature designs, she discusses design rules, color concepts, equipment, and flower preparation, and then offers a series of formal lessons on hand-tied bouquets, the use of water in containers, wirework, and designing for special events. This impressive collection is rounded out with a flower directory detailing those flowers and plants best suited to Pryke's dramatic approach to floral artistry. Packed with original ideas and invaluable techniques, this comprehensive volume is an inspirational sourcebook for flower arrangers of any level.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Rizzoli (February 14, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0847828050

ISBN-13: 978-0847828050

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 0.9 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #131,783 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 inÂ  Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Flower Arranging & Crafts > Flower Arranging #90 inÂ  Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Flowers

## **Customer Reviews**

I bought the book as a present for my wife who has an interest and talent in floral arranging, but no formal training. She loves the book. It has numerous wonderful color photos and discusses colors and texture in floral arranging. The book covers design ideas for shape and form; balance; harmony; scale and proportion; texture and contrast; movement; dominance; rhythm; repetition; massing flowers; grouping; bunching and bundling; carpeting; layering; manipulating plant material; structural designing; and season. It also has an excellent and informative section on color concepts. A key

feature of the book is the step by step instructions for making decorative arrangements, along with photos of the arrangement as described in the steps. I cannot speak for what professional florists would like, but for my wife it was a perfect book. It would have been worth it just to see the beautiful pictures of floral arrangements, but the lessons really make the book what it is.

I would never contest the beauty of this book, but I found the lessons section to be lacking in terms of specificity. After all, this book is meant to be instructive. The instructions were often much too general for someone actually trying to learn floral design. Sometimes the generality is along the lines of 'put the twigs in the vase, put the roses in the vase,' while at other times it is more specific. In essence, the real process of placement is sometimes excluded. Also, many of the arrangements are of a similar style, round and mounded, and though this is a particular style, I would have appreciated fewer examples of this type of bouquet, which I consider to be less complicated to make. As a florist, I would recommend this book to other florists looking for interesting ideas for using alternative floral materials such as food. I would also recommend this book for beginners needing very basic information, such as how to use greenery and basic floral tools. I would not, however, recommend this book for beginners or florists hoping to make commercial sorts of arrangements. After all, her book is the "art" of floral design, not the "economics" of floral design. Many commercial floral arrangements make more economical use of stem length and amount of flowers. This is not universal, but it is something to keep in mind when deciding who to buy this book for.

As a budding floral arranger I thought this book was a bit limited from an educational standpoint. The pictures are beautiful but there weren't many creative designs. I was hoping for an instructional book on how to do designs and was disappointed.

The step-by-step instructions in the book are extremely helpful -- but she still allows for the reader to think creatively in their review of her information. It is a beautiful book with many, many photos, including step-by-step photos for the instructions.

Great pictures and ideas, but not for the beginning florist. If you're just starting out, have no experience and trying to learn the art of floral design, this is not the book for you to learn.

I chose this book to help me get ready for a State Flower show. I found the photos and designs

inspirational to me. Paula Pryke's material selection is outstanding and she's thinking outside the box. The content is not too textbook, technical or preachy, but simply laid out. There is limited information about the mechanics of creating a design which is why I give it a 4. I'm happy to say my design won a blue ribbon.

This book is being used as a text book for an advanced floral design class I am taking. Very useful for the advanced or beginning floral designer. Pictures are very detailed.

This book is amazing! Detailed, gorgeous photos and instructions to create the best floral arrangements of your life. New ideas on every page, lots of suggestions for supplies and techniques.

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