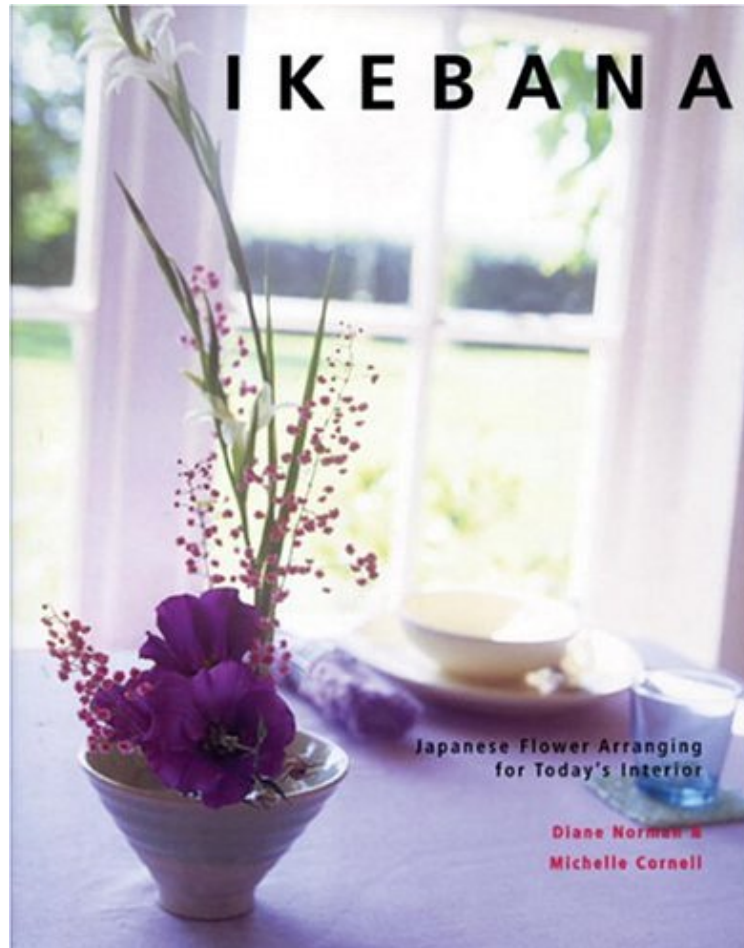


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Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging for Today's Interiors

Michelle Cornell, Diane Norman

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Michelle Cornell, Diane Norman : Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging for Today's Interiors before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ikebana: Japanese Flower Arranging for Today's Interiors:

Ikebana, the ancient Japanese art of flower arranging, is guided by the desire to create harmony between flowers and their surroundings. Thought to be rooted as far back as 600 AD, its name comes from the Japanese "ikeru" (to keep alive, to arrange) and "hana" (flower). A sophisticated art form--with its emphasis on form and balance--ikebana is also an unparalleled meditative activity. Japanese masters have developed the techniques of ikebana over centuries and, while many different styles have evolved, they all share the same fundamental principles. The art embodies aesthetic considerations, knowledge of the natural forms of plants, and a profound understanding of the space around

them. Unlike Western flower arrangements, in ikebana "less is more." The key consideration is to use as few stems as possible to compose elegant contours that highlight a flower's beauty. The design must incorporate the space around the flowers in order to strike a delicate balance between all the elements. As such, ikebana arrangements provide the perfect complement for today's pared-down aesthetic. "Ikeban: Japanese Flower Arranging for Today's Interior" equips you with the principles and techniques to begin making your own arrangements, as well as plenty of beautiful photographs for inspiration. These illustrations will teach you to incorporate the elements that surround you in your designs, while addressing such practical considerations as the placement of the flowers, the time of the year, and the changing seasons. In addition to the incomparable satisfaction of creating beauty in your home, the contemplative art of ikebana will prove a perfect escape from the stresses of everyday life.