

Melange Of French Design Greet Visitors To The World's Largest Indoor Flower Show

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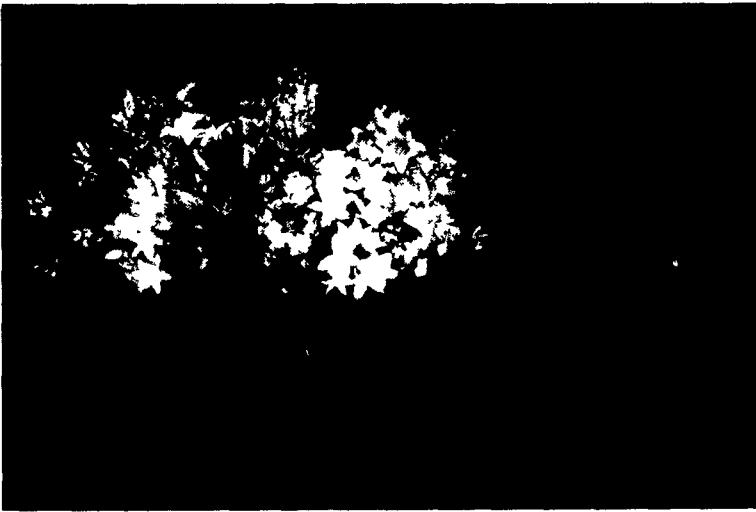
Lancaster Farming Staff

PHILADELPHIA — A mixture of different ideas is often dubbed a "melange." Such a melting pot can turn into a thing of pristine splendor.

Thousands of visitors caught the grandeur of France at this year's Philadelphia Flower Show, the largest indoor flower show in the world.

The show, held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, featured the theme, "La Passion du Jardin," or "The Passion of the Garden."

Visitors glimpsed the artistry of the potager at Chateau de Villandry, the elegant French roses of Henri Delbard, a French country kitchen and dining room, and the magnificent floral reflections at the Versailles-like "Hall of Mirrors." French culinary treasures



Florist William J. Franklin, Philadelphia, captured the imagination of a French garden. At the show, a simple garden wagon cart was overflowing with many types of flowers, including red ginger, purple monkshood, pussywillow, royal lilies, Queen Proteus, roses, snapdragons, French tulips, heather, and Veronica.



The most stunning individual plant was the first place Rhododendron "Ambrosia" shown by Mrs. Lamont DuPont Copel and the Garden Club of Wilmington, Del. The fiery exhibit provided an unequalled shower of intense red to brighten anyone's day.

and the talents of chef Anne Willan were premier events.

In this melange, probably the most stunning display was provided by Philadelphia designer Jamie Rothstein, who used information on the display from her trip to Versailles last summer. The "Hall of Mirrors" design towers about 16 feet high, including thousands of stems imported from France.

Rothstein marks her 12th appearance at the Flower Show. Her emotional interpretation of the world-renowned Versailles exhibit drew accolades from those who attended the event.

For more down-to-earth designs, it was easy for florist William J. Franklin, Philadelphia, to capture the imagination of a French garden. The florists have been involved in garden design since 1951. At the show, a simple garden wagon cart was overflowing with many types of flowers, including red ginger, purple monkshood, pussywillow, royal lilies, Queen Proteus, roses, snapdragons, French tulips, heather, and Veronica.

The French theme was spelled out in the Peco Energy Company display, "Les Avenues Des Arts" (The Avenue of the Arts), festooned with crimson pygmy barberry along the bottom, crowned with hybrid impatiens, with a white tree of Vanhoutte Spirea.

Close to the venerable Eiffel Tower replicate was a towering Barberry. Other flowers in the display, also placed in honor of Philadelphia's own Avenue of the Arts, were Zumi Crabapple, Kwanzan cherry, purple leaf Sandcherry, compact "Shamrock" Inkberry, Maiden Grass, Dense Yew, Dark American Arborvitae, Pleasant White Azalea, Tradition and Poukhanese Azalea, Fragrant Viburnum, P.J.M. Rhododendron, Lynwood Gold Forsythia, Red Tip Photinia, Hollywood Juniper, Bergenia, Carpet Bugle, English Ivy, Purple Palace Coral Bells, Victoria Blue Salvia, Silver Dusty Miller, "King Alfred" Narcissus, Norway Spruce, and white, pink, and purple impatiens.

Delaware Valley College contributed some whimsy to the experience with its "From Flowers to Fragrance to Passion and More" exhibit. One was a white wicker bed filled with Mathiola Incana "Miracle Mix" which won an Award of Merit at the Show.

Laughters and smiles and fresh blooms... more lighthearted



Cirque Du Fleur, Designs In Bloom, with special lighting was a standout at the Flower Show.

features included the "Iron Works" display by McNaughton's Landscaping, Cherry Hill and Somers Point, N.J. An abandoned truck, remnants of old iron, and a rustic path filled with ivy and delicate flowering vines overpowered visitors' senses.

The display, featuring a little "rust as beauty," won a Best Achievement Award, Best Unique Features at the show. The bottom of the old truck was surrounded by Othello Ligularia and the exhibit featured Japanese Beech Fern, Parrot Feather, and a water garden with Golden Club, Corkscrew Rush, and Winterglut Bergenia, among others in the display. Also included were Limber Pine and "Henry's Garnet" Sweet Spire.

Another zany display was "The Tooleries," J. Franklin Styer Nursery. Lots of brightly painted garden tools were stacked end to end to create "trees" with a base of Rosa Betty Prior, Rosa Aguste Renoir, and Rosa Toulouse Lautrec.

The "theme display" near the beginning featured a painting by Vincent Van Gogh, "Field of



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Tulips," 1883, with a floral design by Frank Cushing.

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All Photos
By Andy Andrews



HOMESTEAD NOTES

