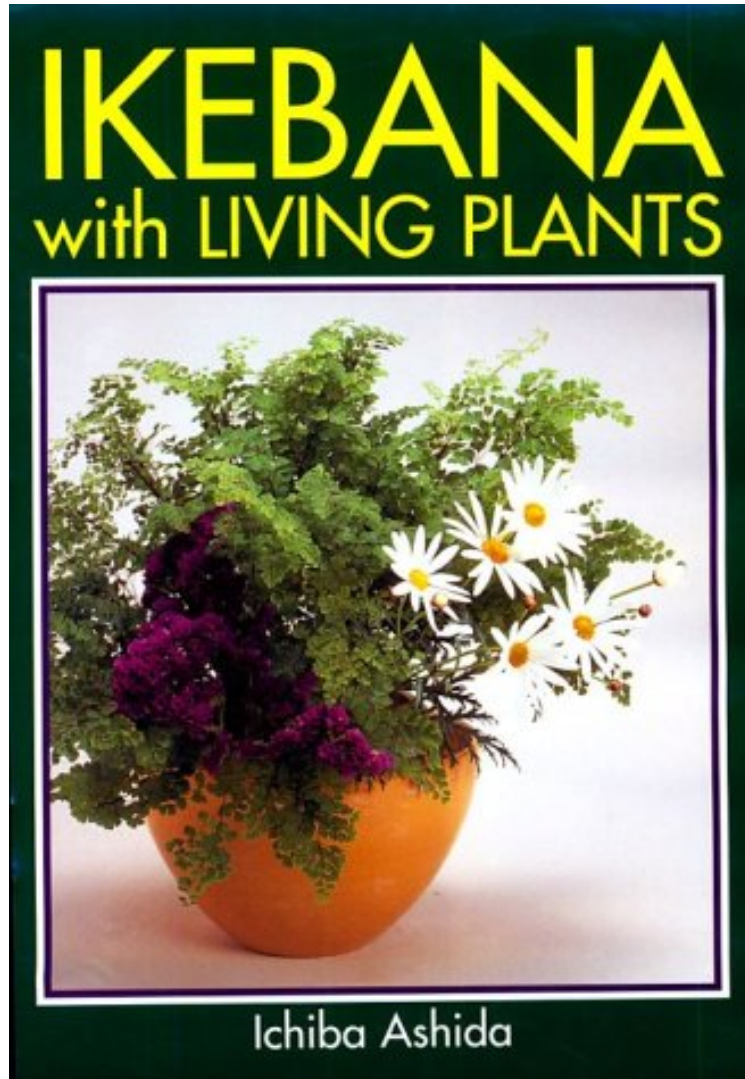


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Ikebana with Living Plants

Ichiba Ashida

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Ichiba Ashida : Ikebana with Living Plants before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ikebana with Living Plants:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautification for your house plants By ThirstyBrooks Ikebana with Living Plants provides great ideas on how to increase appreciation for those house plants you're sheltering for the winter. As a well-organized visual design book, it favors a brief pictorial approach over prose descriptions laden with unfamiliar vocabulary. Those of us who are all thumbs can bloom in our own right, including the guys among us who are proudly ignorant of flower arranging. Ikebana allows us to choose among this week's grocery store flowers -- the simple ones, not just the roses -- and impress house guests with style. Those willing to visit the florist will earn serious

respect. For those that care, ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arranging, anciently practiced by samurai in their off hours from swordsmanship drills and zen meditation. Samurai were apparently not drilled in marketing. So while the book is packed with good visual ideas, it does not include a glowing, self-promotional prose section that makes the reader feel privileged to participate in an uncommon set of ideas. Those with an interest in terrarium design may also find these ideas valuable. And they can be adapted to mixing potted plants among bedded plants when all that greenery gets planted out in the spring. I rated this book both as a cookbook and as a reference book. Even though you won't sit and read Ikebana cover to cover, you can count on it as worthwhile for a couple of dozen good ideas. It provides at least enough to get you through an entire winter. The lack of self-promotional prose means it's probably not the best gift for those who haven't expressed an interest in the topic. But the rest of us will understand that Ikebana adds respectable cultural well-roundedness to our swordsmanship. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A different Ikebana ... By Linda Rachael Sim This is a different interesting approach to Ikebana following the French tradition of pot-et-fleur combined with Japanese aesthetics. The author gives a concise but comprehensive outline on principles followed by lots of illustrated arrangements which gives inspiration ideas to creating your own combinations. It marries a love for flowers with that of green potted plants so one can have the best of both worlds!

It is not surprising that indoor potted plants are rapidly gaining popularity in our modern, urbanized living environments. Potted plants inside the home not only add visual appeal to the interior decor, they also help purify the air in the room. Ikebana with Living Plants is a new variation of the traditional Japanese art of ikebana, or flower arrangement, that allows you to enhance enjoyment of your indoor potted plants by adding cut flowers or branches to the flowerpot. The addition of cut flowers to your favorite potted plant lets you change the mood or ambiance of your room in countless ways, yet your original plant remains uncut and intact. Why not try some of the easily accomplished arrangements shown here—with Ikebana with Living Plants, you can continue to enjoy the beauty of your indoor plants and delight in the variety and richness of natural foliage right at home.

About the Author ICHIBA ASHIDA is the Headmaster of the Enshu Seifu School of Ikebana, formerly known as the Enshu School. Born in Tokyo in 1938, he learned the Enshu style of ikebana from his grandfather. In 1967 he became the Kyoto-based school's 14th headmaster. The Enshu School has one of the oldest ikebana lineages, dating from its founding in the 17th century by Kobori Enshu (1579-1647), a government official in the first three Tokugawa shogunates who made his name as a tea master, pottery connoisseur, and garden designer and architect associated with such landmarks as the Nijo Castle and Katsura Detached Palace in Kyoto. Enshu is best known for its classical shoka style, in which mature branches are painstakingly shaped into graceful curves by cutting small notches into the branches and inserting wedges of wood. Since becoming headmaster, Ashida has broadened the schools' curriculum by developing unique variations of other traditional ikebana forms. He has also created a totally new form of ikebana using cut flowers and potted plants, Ikebana with Living Plants, which is introduced in this volume.