



HUES
OF
CHANGE

NATURE'S SEASONAL TRANSITIONS

FLORAL DESIGN BY JOHNATHAN ANDREW SAGE PHOTOGRAPHY BY CASEY SILLS
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JOHNATHAN ANDREW SAGE, HOUSTON MASTER FLORAL DESIGNER, is driven—altogether appropriate since he began his career as a delivery driver for a flower shop in California. He had moved to the West Coast at age eighteen to go to photography school or to play music in a rock band. Ah, youth! Sage ultimately became manager of the shop but returned to his native Houston. He blossomed under the guidance of mentor Bobb Wirfel when they worked together for six years. “Bobb taught me about floral design, making things easy, not contrived. Flowers dictate what needs to be done with them. When I walk into a home, I see what

flowers are needed to complement the interiors. Perhaps a few blossoms on end tables will do. I exercise a lot of restraint. Sometimes the scheme is monochromatic, but I’m not afraid of color.” The busy floral artist is inspired by Belgian designer Daniel Ost, who, like Sage, is a devotee of natural materials and the creative arts. “I like making large, sculptural pieces such as the ones for *Florescence*, a Garden Club of America-sanctioned show at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.”

For *Veranda*, he imagined vignettes that speak to the transition between summer and fall, ones inspired, perhaps, by the memory of a delivery once made in the early autumnal countryside. □



OPENING PAGES: Mulberry fruit with loropetalum foliage and dahlias in vintage glass vases. Recumbent haworthia in bloom. Antique stone planters from Chateau Domingue hold grapes, muscari, artichokes, dahlias, hydrangeas, euphorbias and sarracenias. THESE PAGES: Moroccan pottery displays clover, buttercup, orange calamandin, yellow coreopsis, brown-eyed coreopsis, Forelle pears and muscari.