



Fauxliage Tour

Fabulous florals from Bea Schriver

Every space can benefit from natural elements. Flowers and foliage elevate a room's sophistication and comfort level—something that inspires floral designer Bea Schriver every day. Schriver began her career studying interior design and creative disciplines. After apprenticing at a floral shop and advancing her expertise through formal study, Schriver's entrepreneurial acumen urged her to launch her Norwalk-based business several years ago.

Especially drawn to elegant interiors, Schriver

possesses an innate sensibility for exact elements that add just the right arrangements to complement luxurious homes. Whether to make a grand entrance most welcoming or to enhance a fireplace mantle, Schriver's arrangements add flair.

Recently expanding her services with faux florals for homes and businesses, Schriver fashions "elegant, long lasting designs that add color and texture to well-designed interiors without the high maintenance and ephemeral nature of fresh flowers."

Permanent floral arrangements increasingly meet sophisticated requests. While in years past silk botanicals might not have been quite so realistic, today's advanced fabrication methods produce remarkably authentic qualities, realizing amazing full spectrum colors and extraordinary textural effects. More often than not, today's reproduction botanical arrangements elicit the question, "That's not real?"



This growth portion of her business allows Schriver to conceive original one-of-a-kind compositions for each particular client space, whether it is a residential or commercial venue. Tactile fabrics incorporate silk and polyester blends that imitate a variety of extremely natural-looking flowers and foliage. Flowers of the same type may now vary in size of bloom and length of stem, as well as exhibit different life cycle stages. Imperfections and slight variations reflect nature more accurately. Foliage often is shaded authentically; roses may even have thorns. Perhaps a flower petal shows an insect bite!

the westport showroom

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In the Field



Lush greens and environmentally friendly foliage are very popular this year—as are the often-requested yellows and blues

Today's homeowners pay greater attention to incorporating luxurious comforts in their everyday lives, which usually requires premium quality alongside versatility and convenience. For example, a Schriver client may have a wish for something always at their front doorway to greet people as they arrive.

After visiting the home and understanding the client's style, Schriver might source fabulous lightweight urns resembling Italian carved stone to complement the exterior entryway. Situating topiaries of impressive height in those urns gives a formidable basis with which to work all year. The tall greenery can be updated seasonally with appropriate floral supplements.

In the springtime pansies crop up colorfully setting



off the structural core. This combination might be followed by pink geraniums with trailing ivy overflowing the urns for summer. Autumn may showcase vibrant bountiful mums alongside rich harvest foliage, while holiday season might spotlight the greenery decorated with berries and sparkling white lights.

In this way the seasons are saluted appropriately with a modicum of required effort for each update. For the homeowner, decorating becomes a delight rather than an onerous chore. The home always looks polished and put together. Advantages of including reproduction botanicals include low maintenance not hindered by hectic schedules, as well as resistance to both disease and deer.



"Our custom designed permanent florals of high quality silk and dried materials bring a space to life and create a feeling of completion, elegance and luxury," says Schriver. Amazing hydrangeas and exceptional orchids are key components in recent arrangements. Subtle differences can be detected, making the compositions especially lifelike. With colors tied to palettes used in home furnishings and textiles, harmonious integration can be achieved with any designer palette.

Lately Schriver has seen an increase in requests for permanent florals for outdoor spaces. Traditional pots of living summer annuals now may be complemented on a poolside terrace by grand pots housing faux trees which hold their luster year-round. Lush greens and environmentally friendly foliage are very popular right now. Yellows and blues are being requested more frequently this year, with a move away from the vibrant oranges and hottest colors.

Attraction seems to be toward lush pinks, antique roses, creamy whites and soft apricots. There is an ideal match suitable for every location. Incorporating permanent florals to an overall interior and exterior scheme is sensible, whether for homeowner or business owner.

Schriver can work in different ways, depending on client need. Ideally, she begins with a consultation at the client's home or office (although she welcomes clients at her studio by appointment) where she can assess directly wallpaper, fabrics and colors of existing décor. Recommendations are developed for customized material selection with great textural effect. Suitable containers are selected. Complete delivery and installation services follow.

Today's exquisite reproduction botanicals have a place right alongside their naturally grown brethren to ensure year-round botanical beauty both indoors and out. ■

Bea Schriver Florals

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Privacy Please!

They say that Big Brother is always watching, but we know a way of ensuring your right to some "alone time" this year. Ridgefield Glass, a local custom glass retailer, is offering the newest innovation in glass design—privacy glass—which balances privacy with the unobstructed flow of light at the flick of a switch.

"Privacy glass removes the clutter of blinds, curtains and shades, while providing a sleek, modern look to any room of the house," said John Petchonka, co-owner of Ridgefield Glass. "We expect the demand to grow into the year as it's a great way to preserve one's confidentiality, without losing light."

Specifically, privacy glass transforms from clear to translucent glass through a liquid crystal sheet permanently bonded

between two layers of glass. In their non-energized state, the liquid crystal molecules disperse light. When voltage is applied, however, these same molecules arrange themselves in a specific direction in a way that permits parallel light to pass through the glass while preventing others from seeing in the room.

The company notes that popular applications for the new privacy glass include: Bathroom—used on window panels in strategic areas, privacy glass still floods the room with light, while offering privacy to those inside. Kitchen—used on skylights, privacy glass can cut down on the intensity of the

sun without losing warmth or brightness of its rays. Office—used on windows and glass doors, privacy glass creates a confidential office setting for any business meeting

Founded in 1974, Ridgefield Glass is the exclusive provider of ultra-frameless shower doors and bathroom enclosures in Connecticut. Besides its full-service, custom-design glass department,

Ridgefield Glass offers the most modern applications in mirrors, insulated and commercial glass for both the residential and business market. For further information, visit www.ridgefieldglass.com or call 203-438-3105.

