

Melbourne Polytechnic Student competition design descriptions

Advanced

Riley Gray:

"This design is inspired by the Edithvale Wetlands, a place I grew up next to during my childhood. When I heard the theme *Natural Beauty* this is immediately where my mind gravitated towards. The luscious tall wispy grass, the corndog esque bulrush and the stillness of its waters was a great source of whimsy and adventure for child me. Brining it into MIFGS I wanted to keep its neutral muted tones whilst adding colour and flamboyancy to recreate the feeling I had playing there as a child."

Ingrid Josephine:

My floral design is inspired by Japanese kokedama moss balls and aims to evoke the form of a growing plant. Kokedama is associated with the Japanese philosophy and aesthetic of *wabi-sabi*, which embraces the beauty of imperfection and the raw, natural form of things. This philosophy contrasts with the Western ideal of artificial perfection and beauty. To interpret the theme of 'Natural Beauty' for the competition, I have chosen a colour palette that exudes tranquility, with shades of green and earth tones, reflecting the vast and beautiful natural botanic world in my own unique way.

Tahnee Phin:

- See attached PDF
- [Natural beauty: A reflection of you — Tahnee Phin, Phin Flora - Google Docs](#)

Maia Meadows-Wood:

I have always loved gardens that use seasonal flowers to bring beautiful, changing colours and forms. In every season there's new flowers to enjoy. However, with the death of seasons, comes a chance for new life. Through the drying of flowers and foliage they become available all year round and create many different opportunities. This is what my work embodies by using seasonal flowers and dried materials: The beginning of the new, preserving the old, creating the bold.

Shannon Chan:

Theme: Natural Beauty

Welcome to my juicy burst of colour and texture. When we were informed the theme was "Natural Beauty", I immediately thought of a rainbow in the sky. So, as you journey your eyes along my installation you will walk through colours of the rainbow. Each colour is quite different from the other and traditionally some of the materials aren't typically used together. However, take a step back and see it as a whole, feel free to ponder the question if a rainbow was filled with botanicals and suddenly exploded what would it look like? Here's my interpretation, enjoy the polychromatic mess!

Some of the flowers featured are: Chrysanthemums, Gerberas, Anthurium, Roses, Lisianthus, Hydrangeas and Delphiniums.

When making the structure, sustainability and reducing carbon footprint was as the forefront so everything used has been repurposed and where possible biodegradable. The bones of my structure is made from an old wooden shelf which was found on the street as hard rubbish. All my water vessels are either used food containers, things I already own or borrowed. To reduce waste, I am also able to reuse the chicken wire surrounding structure and I have not cut the ends of my releasable cable ties so I can reuse them later.

Vivia Liu:

Long version -

《The Yellow River Originates From The Heaven's Divine》

In the heart of this composition lies a tribute to the majestic Huang He, the Yellow River of China, celebrated not just for its historical significance but for its profound metaphorical beauty. This piece is a delicate blend of realism and metaphor, crafted to awaken the spiritual sensibility of those who hold a deep fascination for the ancient Chinese ethos.

At its core, the amaranthus blossoms embody the river's essence, with their colors transitioning gracefully from green to yellow. This transition mirrors the river's journey through the Huang tu Gao po, where it embraces the soft, yellowish soil along its banks, transforming its waters into a golden hue. This natural alchemy serves as a reminder of the harmonious interplay between the elements, painting a picture of life's transient yet beautiful nature.

A carefully placed piece of driftwood, hollow at the center, represents the Yellow River's opposing banks. This not only adds a layer of depth to the narrative but also symbolizes the unity of opposites, a fundamental concept in Chinese philosophy. Surrounding this, the gentle arrangement of flowers and grass evokes the vibrant life that thrives along the river's slow-flowing downstream, celebrating the fertility and beauty bestowed by the river upon the landscape.

The inspiration behind this artistic endeavor is drawn from the ancient poem "Jiang Jin Jiu" by Bai Li, which contemplates the fleeting nature of time and the inherent beauty in life's ephemeral moments. While the poem might project a melancholic view of life's impermanence, this floral composition proposes an

alternative perspective: the very transience of life magnifies the value of every moment, urging us to cherish and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us.

It is my hope that through this piece, a new channel of communication and understanding will be forged, allowing the Western world to delve deeper into the richness of Chinese philosophy and spirituality. May this creation not only celebrate the enduring beauty of the Huang He but also serve as a bridge, connecting cultures and enriching our collective appreciation for the world's diverse expressions of beauty.

Short version:

《The Yellow River Originates From The Heaven's Divine》

This floral arrangement embodies the Yellow River's journey, with amaranthus transitioning from green to yellow, mirroring the water's passage through the Huang tu Gao po, absorbing the earth's essence. A driftwood centerpiece represents the riverbanks, emphasizing unity and the vibrant life nurtured by the river's flow. Inspired by Bai Li's poem "Jiang Jin Jiu," this piece reflects on life's transience, choosing to celebrate the beauty in impermanence. It aims to bridge cultures, inviting a deeper appreciation for Chinese philosophy and the beauty in our fleeting moments. This creation is a call to cherish and revel in the world's diverse splendor, fostering a new understanding of ancient wisdom and spirituality.