

[Special Feature]

Brilliance of Aquatic Plants

NATURE IN THE GLASS

ENJOY DOOA

ADA Review
Enjoy Neo Glass Air casually

MAKE & KEEP
DOOA MISTFLOW

Mizukusa FOCUS/Plant Art Studio

Amano's view 'Thoughts on Africa'



NATURE IN THE GLASS

“Brilliance of Aquatic Plants”

Hayato Ochi

AQUA JOURNAL vol.272

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An aquascape with flourishing, colorful aquatic plants. The open space, leading around the driftwood and plant bushes, and deeper inside, invites us to the underwater world.

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NATURE IN THE GLASS

Creating a concave layout inspired by driftwood, with an array of outstanding colors of plants.

When it comes to creating Nature Aquariums, you recreate a piece of nature in a tank as if it were clipped out from nature, or you develop your layout image after choosing layout materials. This layout was created by using the latter method. First, I

chose simple, but powerful driftwood pieces, and then attached *Bolbitis*, *Hygrophila pinnatifida* and willow moss (*Taxiphyllum barbieri*) to them. By doing so, the layout depicted the vitality of plants as powerful as the appearance of the driftwood, and

created a natural feel. Moreover, arranging aquatic plants in various shapes, sizes and colors in the background, I captured the beauty of vibrant colors full of life in a standard concave layout. (Hayato Ochi)

DATA

Shooting date	December 21st, 2017 (ADA)
Creator	Hayato Ochi
Aquarium	Cube Garden W180 x D60 x H60 (cm)
Lighting	Solar RGB × 3, turned on for 10 hours per day
Filter	Super Jet Filter ES-2400 (Bio Rio L)
Substrate	Aqua Soil-Amazonia, Power Sand Advance L, Bacter 100, Clear Super, Tourmaline BC
CO₂	Pollen Glass Beetle 500, 3 bubbles per second via CO ₂ Beetle Counter (using Tower)
Aeration	14 hours after the light is turned off using Lily Pipe P-6
Additives	Brighty K, Green Brighty Mineral, Green Brighty Iron, Green Brighty Nitrogen
Water change	1/3 once a week
Water quality	Temperature: 25°C; pH: 6.4; TH: 20 mg/L
Aquatic Plants	Wabi-Kusa <i>Rotala rotundifolia</i> 'Fujian' Wabi-Kusa <i>Rotala rotundifolia</i> 'Green' Wabi-Kusa <i>Rotala nanjean</i> Wabi-Kusa <i>Hygrophila polysperma</i> Wabi-Kusa <i>Rotala</i> sp. 'Wayanad' Wabi-Kusa <i>Myriophyllum mattogrossense</i> 'Green' Wabi-Kusa <i>Rotala</i> sp. Hra

Fish & Invertebrates

BIO *Cryptocoryne axelrodi*
Bio Mizukusa no Mori *Cryptocoryne wendtii* 'Brown'
Bio Mizukusa no Mori *Cryptocoryne wendtii* 'Green'
Glossostigma elatinoides
Eleocharis parvula
Ludwigia glandulosa
Blyxa novoguineensis
Cryptocoryne albida
Microsorium sp. 'Trident'
Bolbitis heudelotii
Hygrophila pinnatifida
Taxiphyllum barbieri
Paracheiرون axelrodi
Hyphessobrycon sweglesii
Hyphessobrycon sp.
Nematobrycon palmeri
Microgeophagus ramirezi
Crossocheilus oblongus
Otocinclus sp.
Caridina multidentata

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A planting arrangement with epiphytes and stem plants, making the best use of the characteristics of driftwood

Just like stones, driftwood is an essential material to create a framework of a planted layout. Driftwood is a natural material. Therefore, each driftwood piece has its own characteristics, and there are no identical pieces. When using driftwood in a layout, it is important to think out how to make use of its characteristics. For example, if you have a nice driftwood piece but it has an unsightly cut surface, you can hide it by attaching epiphytic plants like moss or ferns onto it. If the driftwood gives off an overwhelming impression, you can soften it by covering the driftwood with bushes of plants, such as stem plants.



Willow moss and other mosses, that take roots to cover the surface of driftwood, soften the impression of the driftwood and render a natural feel to the layout.

A strong impression of driftwood can be softened by mosses and ferns attached to driftwood, or by thick, overhanging stem plants in the background.



Densely-grown, thriving stem plants complete the concave composition and at the same time bring a sense of brilliance and vibrancy to the aquascape.



Planting



Powerful driftwood pieces were used to create a defined, concave composition. The aquatic plants were also arranged by taking into account the characteristics of the driftwood.

Aquascape completion



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Blyxa novoguineensis was planted close to the driftwood. It connects ferns attached to the driftwood and carpet plants, and adds a visual accent to planting arrangement.



Create an open space, running from the front left of the tank to the rear right, with *Glossostigma* and add a sense of depth.



Plant various aquatic plants, such as *Cryptocoryne* and *Hygrophila pinnatifida*, in the middle ground to add a natural feel and a sense of vitality to the layout.



Arrange driftwood and stones to leave indents. It creates shades in the layout and provides the perfect hiding place for fish.

It can be set up casually and it offers many ways to enjoy an aquarium for beginners as well as enthusiasts.

The world is overflowing with things. So, being small, light, and simple is generally welcome everywhere, but what about an aquarium? While being small is an advantage since it can be easily placed anywhere, it can also be a disadvantage since the water can become dirty easily due to the small volume. The temperature of the aquarium can also be affected easily by the outside temperature. In addition, the space can be too small for fish to swim around. We must consider these pros and cons when purchasing a small aquarium. Extra care and ingenuity are required to overcome the disadvan-

tages. While enthusiasts may actually enjoy these challenges, perhaps beginners would rather be free from the extra work. So, let's look at some ways to enjoy the aquarium for both of these groups. The first example is an Iwagumi layout in a Neo Glass Air W20 x D20 x H20 (cm) and is intended for an enthusiast. It would be an embodiment of the "less is more" school of thought. Producing a landscape in a small space offers a different type of challenge and is also fun. Although trimming aquatic plants and maintaining the water quality requires extra work, it is fun to tackle it as

a challenge to improve one's own skill. For a beginner, placing a Wabi-Kusa Mizube MIX, a product to be offered for a limited time this summer (see page 20 for detail), in the aquarium would be a great way to enjoy this type of aquarium. While it is the simplest way to enjoy this aquarium, it offers a style that lets you enjoy the refreshing feeling of summer and the atmosphere of a waterfront. Either one of these will create a charming waterfront in your room. You can select and enjoy either one based on your specific needs.



- DATA
- Neo Glass Air W20x20xH20 (cm)
 - Neo Glass Cover 20x20 (cm)
 - SOL STAND G
 - CO₂ System 74-YA/Ver.2 (NA)
 - System 74 Cap Stand (metal/NA)
 - CO₂ Forest Bottle (NA)
 - CO₂ Mini Counter
 - CO₂ Mini Diffuser Ø10
 - Tropical River Sand
 - SUIKEI Liquid
 - Small internal filter (prototype model)

[Aquatic Plants]
Riccia fluitans
Eleocharis acicularis
[Fish]
Aplocheilichthys macrophthalmus

The photograph was taken using a Blue Gradation Sheet, which is an accessory of Light Screen 60. Taking pictures will be another part of the fun.

Neo Glass Air
W15 x D15 x H25 (cm)
An example of enjoying aquatic plants in an emersed condition in a tall Neo Glass Air. It is great for an east window where morning sunlight can reach.



Neo Glass Air
W20x20xH8 (cm)
An example of a shallow Neo Glass Air with a Wabi-Kusa Mizube MIX created in the form of water basin. The reflection of the ripple on the bottom surface enhances the refreshing impression.



Neo Glass Air
W30xD18xH12 (cm)
Tall, airy *Scirpus triangulatus* Roxb. and *Sagittaria sagittifolia* elicit a feeling of a warm nostalgia. A floating plant would add additional interest.

Neo Glass Air
W20xD20xH20 (cm)
Although it is usually maintained with filtration equipment, an added appeal of this size aquarium is being able to display the aquarium by itself when you feel like it or when you expect a visitor.



Neo Glass Air, complete with an open space beneath the bottom plate, has a sophisticated look unlike a conventional, small aquarium. It is perfect for decorating a room casually as an element in home interior.



DOOA NEO GLASS AIR

Enjoy Neo Glass Air casually.



DOOA, an inspiring brand, helps you enjoy aquatic plants more freely. Minimal and easy, and designed as a platform allowing everyone to nurture plants indoors. Feel closer to nature, and bring beauty into your life.

Creating a uniform appearance of Wabi-Kusa Wall and driftwood, using mosses.

An aqua terrarium was created in a Neo Glass Terra H23 by taking advantage of the characteristics of the tank and allowing the driftwood branch to boldly protrude out of the tank. Driftwood and Ryuoh Stones with rough textures were used, and some of the driftwood branches were covered with Willow Moss so that they looked like they were a part of the Wabi-Kusa Mat. Additionally, the swimming space for the fish was produced in the front center of the tank by mounding Tropical River Sand high in the rear of the tank to prevent the fish from getting behind the composition materials. The tank was planted primarily with *Ludwigia grandulosa*, which is likely to stand upright above the water surface. Its green leaves and reddish stems also go well together with the atmosphere created by the driftwood.

Solar RGB
Solar RGB Arm Stand W60xD30cm
Neo Glass TERRA H23cm
Wabi-Kusa Wall 60
Wabi-Kusa Wall Stand 60
Wood Cabinet (Off-White) W60xD30xH70 (cm)
CO₂ Mini Counter
CO₂ Mini Diffuser Ø15
Stream Pipe V-1
Super Jet Filter ES-150
NA Control Timer II
Tropical River Sand
WABI-KUSA Mist
SUIKEI Liquid

[Aquatic Plants]

Wabi-Kusa *Ludwigia glandulosa*
Wabi-Kusa *Hygrophila polysperma*
Wabi-Kusa *Eleocharis acicularis*
Wabi-Kusa *Taxiphyllum barbieri*

[Fish]

Axelrodia riesei
Nannostomus eques
Hyphessobrycon sp.
Crossocheilus oblongus
Otocinclus sp.
Caridina multidentata

Shooting date: March 28th, 2018 (ADA)
Creation & Text by Yusuke Homma
©AQUA DESIGN AMANO





DOOA, an inspiring brand, helps you enjoy aquatic plants more freely, naturally and easily, and designed as a platform allowing everyone to further create hopes. Feel closer to nature, and bring beauty into your life.



When you look closely at the aqua terrarium in which the rear space was filled with cosmetic sand and aquatic plants, fish appear as if you are peering into the underwater.

©AQUA DESIGN AMANO

Being able to spread driftwood branches toward the front or left and right sides of an aquarium is another appeal of an aqua terrarium produced with Neo Glass Terra H23 and a Wabi-Kusa Wall.



An aqua terrarium with a natural waterfront appearance that allows you to look below the surface of the water

One of the appeals of an aqua terrarium created in a Neo Glass Terra with Wabi-Kusa Wall is the fact that you can enjoy viewing objects beneath the surface of the water from above as well as viewing the aquarium from



The appearance of *Nannostomus marginatus* and *Axelrodia riesei* swimming among rocks. Aquatic plants growing underwater are the perfect hiding place for small fish. It is thrilling to be able to get a glimpse of the fish that show themselves only occasionally.



The contrast of moist Willow Moss and *Ludwigia grandulosa* with shiny green leaves add a three-dimensional feeling to the above-the-water section.

the side in the usual manner. It brings you a sensation similar to looking at things underwater in nature using an underwater viewer. In this aqua terrarium, the swimming space was provided in the center so that the fish swimming between stones can be observed easily. Cosmetic sand was mounded high behind the composition materials to prevent the fish from getting trapped behind the materials. Although stem plants are often planted in the area above the water in an aqua terrarium, some stem plants were planted in the water as well to produce the waterfront atmosphere in this aqua terrarium.



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Creating a sense of depth by growing mosses and *Riccia* over the driftwood resting on the wall.

Water can be run over a layout material, such as driftwood, using Willow Moss by taking advantage of the Cascade System on a System Terra 30 or a Wabi-Kusa Wall 60. In this layout, Willow Moss was grown over the driftwood surface by immersing the moss in the water from the Cascade System running down the driftwood. This was done via the tip of the driftwood branch that is leaning on the wall surface. *Riccia* was added to cover the area of the driftwood that was illuminated by light to accentuate the area and create a sense of depth since the driftwood would have been obscured into the Wabi-Kusa Mat if it was covered with Willow Moss alone.

SOL STAND G
SOL STAND G Mounting piece
System Terra 30
Glass Cover for System Terra 30
Mistflow
Base Stand 35
CO₂ Mini Counter
CO₂ Mini Diffuser J Ø10
NA Control Timer II
Tropical River Sand
WABI-KUSA Mist

[Aquatic Plants]
Wabi-Kusa KAREN
Wabi-Kusa Mat *Taxiphyllum barbieri*
Anubias barteri var. *nana* 'Petite'
Riccia fluitans
Taxiphyllum barbieri
[Fish]
Boraras brigittae
Crossocheilus oblongus
Otocinclus sp.
Caridina multidentata

Shooting date: February 1st, 2018 (ADA)
Creation & Text by Yusuke Homma
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DOOA, an inspiring brand, helps you enjoy aquatic plants more freely. Minimal and easy, and designed as a platform allowing everyone to create their own. Feel closer to nature, and bring beauty into your life.

Creative use of the wall of System Terra 30 to add a three-dimensional appearance

Wabi-Kusa Mats can be fitted to the wall surface of the System Terra 30. However, the layout tends to look flat if the Wabi-Kusa Mats are covered with mosses or small epiphytic plants alone. Let's use

driftwood and stem plants creatively and create a more three-dimensional appearance. A variety of layouts can be produced by taking advantage of the ecological characteristics of aquatic plants.



The various, densely-growing plants near the water's edge and the colorful fishes near the water surface conjure up an image of a creek in a tropical jungle.

©AQUA DESIGN AMANO



Allowing the left tip of the driftwood to protrude to the outside of the aquarium enhances the three-dimensional appearance of the composition. The relatively large, emerged-grown leaves of the plants in the *Hygrophila* family adds to the three-dimensional appearance as well.



Emerged-grown leaves of *Riccia* covered the driftwood in the center and added a three-dimensional appearance to the layout. Such a layout was made possible by combining the non-epiphytic *Riccia* with Willow Moss.



A natural appearance was enhanced by placing a group of *Anubias* plants in such a manner that they stretch from the underwater section to the above-water area. The area shaded by driftwood is ecologically suitable for the sciophytic *Anubias* as well.

MAKE & KEEP

7

MISTFLOW:
Designed for use with System Terra 30
to create the atmosphere of a cloud
forest and maintain an adequate humidity.

DOOA

MISTFLOW



MISTFLOW, an atomizer for use with System Terra 30, is designed to make a flow of mist and retain moisture for emerged plants, just by setting it up inside the filtration chamber of SYSTEM TERRA 30. 3 spare vibration plates (atomizer disc) and a plate replacing tool included.

**Keeping proper humidity level is important
for emerged aquatic plants and epiphytes to grow.**

In the aqua-terrarium layout, where ecotone, or transition area between terrestrial and underwater biosphere, is created artificially, it is crucial to grow plants in emerged condition. DOOA System Terra 30 is an aquarium system with built-in filtration system, designed for making aqua-terrariums without any hassles. Many types of moss, emerged aquatic plants, and epiphyte can be used by fixing and planting them on Wabi-Kusa Mat. Water, necessary for healthy growth and long-term maintenance of plants, is provided through ADA-original "cascade spillway," where the water falls down along the wall section. But there is a case the plant leaves get dried, and are not growing well, depending on the room condi-

tions, and the type of plant grown on the wall section. It is important to keep moderate humidity, as emerged aquatic plants, helophytes, and tropical epiphytes prefer a high humidity environment. The humidity over the wall section can be controlled to a certain degree by spraying water frequently, but it requires great care, and the leaves easily get dried if you forget spraying. MISTFLOW is a fog generator, designed for the use with System Terra 30. It generates a large amount of fog just by placing it in the filtration chamber, and helps to maintain an adequate humidity level at the wall. It also gives an atmosphere of a cloud forest and creates a natural feel in your aqua terrarium.



MAKE & KEEP

Every month, this column introduces useful knowledge, skills and product information to make and keep your Nature Aquarium and Aqua-Terrarium. In this issue, we feature DOOA's new product, "MISTFLOW," an atomizer designed for use with SYSTEM TERRA 30, keeping emerged aquatic plants and epiphytes in good shape by retaining the moisture in the air.

Setup guide of MISTFLOW



Adjust the Flow rate controller to keep the running water level about halfway of Cascade spillway.



Set the Filter sponge in Filter 1 of System Terra 30 to be located 8cm from the top of aquarium.



Set MISTFLOW stably on top of the Filter sponge, and make sure the Water level sensor submerged completely.



Put back the Filter Lid on top of System Terra 30, after affixing Protection sticker on the Lid in a position where a plume of water hits directly.



Fog starts coming down through Cascade spillway, when MISTFLOW plugged in. Check the water level if the fog does not come out.



The water and fog generated by MISTFLOW splashes out if MISTFLOW is started without placing the Filter Lid on top.

Tip!

Installation of Glass Cover

Optional Glass Cover for System Terra 30 helps to stabilize the air current, and let the mist run down along the wall well. (Optional Cube Garden Hook 5mm (4 pcs.) is necessary for the installation.)



Replacement of Vibration plate (atomizer disc)



Replacement of Vibration plate (atomizer disc) is necessary once in every 3-4 months. Insert the Plate replacing tool into the slot of Fixing ring, and turn the tool counterclockwise.



Remove the Fixing ring and take out the old Vibration plate. Be careful NOT to remove the O-ring inside.



Fit in a new plate, and fix it with Fixing ring, using the tool. (Turn up the white-color side.)

Snow in the mountains is thawing, the water has warmed up, and the wind feels pleasant now. Green leaves are sprouting here and there, and one can sense that they are growing with each passing day. We packed the energy of such fresh plants into Wabi-Kusa. In this article, I am going to introduce Wabi-Kusa Mizube (Waterfront) MIX that was just released recently.

Recreating waterfront scenery easily just by placing it in a tank.

Plants at the waterfront are growing amazingly fast since the weather warmed up. A waterfront at this time of the year is a paradise for living things. Wabi-Kusa Mizube MIX embodies that natural waterfront scenery with Wabi-Kusa. You can see a variety of plants growing every day.

■ Plant types

Primary plants here are *Sagittaria sagittifolia* and *Scirpus triangulatus* Roxb. *Sagittaria sagittifolia* has arrowhead-shaped leaves, and the long leafless sheaths of *Scirpus triangulatus* Roxb. stand upright. Both plants send new shoots, one after another, and grow vertically vigorously. *Polygonum* in the center adds an accent. The base is covered

with Willow Moss, and *Eleocharis parvula* and *Hydrocotyle* grow by spreading over the base.

■ Ways to enjoy the plants

You can plant the Wabi-Kusa either partially submersed or emersed in Neo Glass Air in a bright place away from direct sunlight as shown in the page 8 – 9. Organisms such as killifish, shrimp, or river snails may add some liveliness to a deeper tank. The Wabi-Kusa allows you to enjoy a scenery of waterfront that is full of life. Looking at the water-side plants growing day by day will bring you a moment of bliss. I recommend that you give a try to Wabi-Kusa Mizube MIX that can add interest to daily life.



Plant Art Studio



Rotala macrandra

07

Tiny bubbles of oxygen, holding onto the starkly colored ribs of leaves.
Out of water, they will be dissolved into air and be a part of it.

Photo / Yusuke Homma





The Amboseli National Reserve spreads out under the shadow of Mt.Kilimanjaro, and in its confines lions, leopards, and rhinos roam under the watchful eye of the Kenyan government. This was my favorite spot in all of East Africa, because I could see the sun rise from behind Kilimanjaro. I took a lot of photographs of zebras and giraffes running on the plains with the great mountain in the background. It is postcard Africa at its best.

There are many lodges in the park, and they are all designed to blend in with the natural scenery. Not one spoils the atmosphere. The only unsettling thing about them is natural: the lizards that cling to the windows at night, comet to feed on the insects that are attracted to the light. A casual glance out the window could bring you face to face with some very ugly nightlife.

Most lodges have an artificial pond for attracting wild-life, but the first one I stayed in didn't even have a bath or shower for the human guests, much less one for animals that night drop by. Everything was in the open

air except the beds, and I felt like a native.

Next I stayed at a more expensive lodge that had the requisite watering place. All kinds of animals could be viewed because it was the dry season and their usual sources of water were gone. I was fascinated by how different species watered at different times, as if there was a tacit understanding between them. The strongest animals take the best times, so lions and elephants water at their leisure in the cool dusk.

The nocturnals show up when everyone is asleep, of course, so the lodge provides an “animal call service.” Guests simply have to inform the lodge what animals they are interested in seeing, and they will be awaked if and when that animal appears at the water hole.

I put in a call for leopards. One night I was awakened by a thunderous roar. I thought it must be a male. I couldn't believe such a sound could be made by an earthly beast. But, in fact, it was coming from quite nearby. I listened more closely and realized what the source was: the American in the next room was snoring. The leopards, perhaps frightened off by my neighbor, never appeared. I did get to see a lot of other animals come to drink at night, and even animals that I had seen already in the light of day were somehow more mysterious at night. Of course, an animal's behavior varies with its surroundings. A lion drinking at a water hole doesn't act like a lion in the jungle or one on the plain. Weak animals gather in herds on the plain, where they are easy prey for predators. This herding behavior inspired my work “Gathering on the Plain.”

Nature Aquarium World (TFH, 1992)

INFORMATION

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SYSTEM TERRA 30 MISTFLOW SET



SYSTEM TERRA 30
MISTFLOW SET

- Mistflow
- System TERRA 30
- Glass Cover
- Cube Garden Hook 5mm
- Cascade Brush S

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NEXT AQUA JOURNAL ENGLISH version

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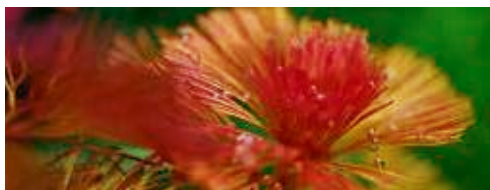
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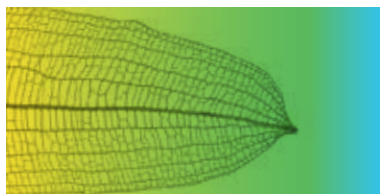
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