

## The Orchid named eFIG's Office Plant of the Year 2011

Last week an independent panel of judges including three horticultural journalists met to decide eFIG's Office Plant of the Year.

The panel were given a short list of three plants to consider looking at some specific criteria including

- Easy to maintain
- Good for any location i.e. can tolerate light and shade
- Popular with clients
- Good at scrubbing the air – remember all plants remove toxins
- Interesting plant – architectural structure or other reason
- Good for desk tops – fulfilling research criteria – one plant improves mood and performance



Matthew Appleby, Panel Chair Ian Drummond Creative Director at IGD, Claudia de Yong & David Curtis

The short listed plants which had been voted for by eFIG members and visitors to their website and the Landscape Show were the Phalaenopsis orchid, the Croton (*Codiaeum variegatum*) and the Ficus Bonsai.

After much discussion about the context in which each plant could work, the panel concluded that the Phalaenopsis Orchid just had more impact and style as well as versatility and stood out in so many different situations.



The Orchid won, despite its perceived ubiquity, for its "elegance", "reasonable price", and comparative "ease of maintenance".

The panel of judges was Matthew Appleby, Deputy Editor at Horticulture Week, Austin Clark, Assistant Editor of Florist & Wholesale Buyer Magazine, David Curtis, Editor of The Landscape Magazine and Chelsea Award-winning garden designer Claudia de Yong.



#### Short-list

Voters were given a choice of 10 plants to vote for and the three with the most votes were offered for the judges consideration

The Ten plants were:

- Anthurium
- Asplenium
- Beaucarnea recurvata
- Croton
- Dracaena
- Ficus bonsai
- Kentia Palm
- Orchid
- Sansevieria
- Spathiphyllum

