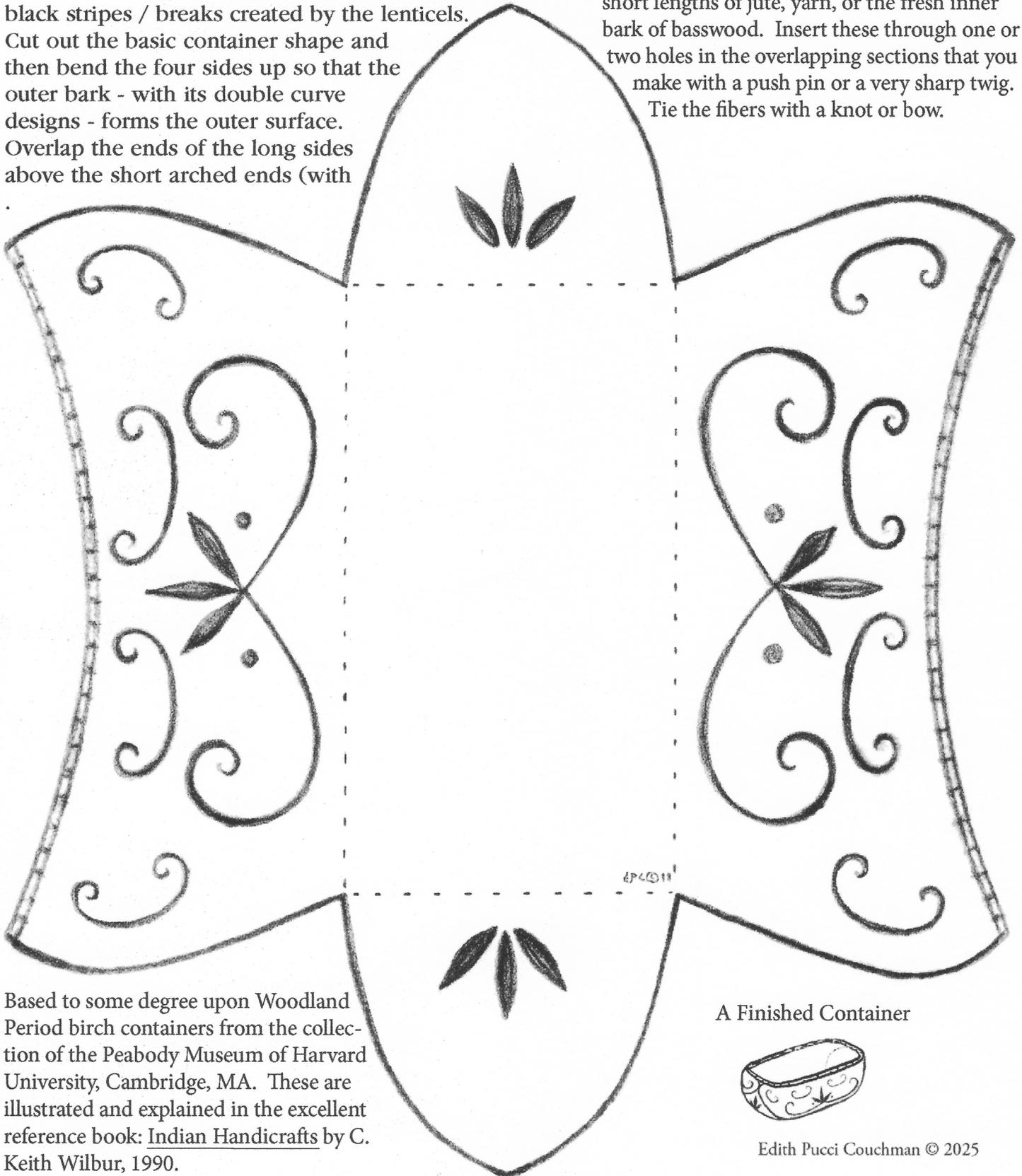


A Model Birch Bark Container

Directions: Add a little color to the basket if you like. (Look at real birch bark to discover that the inner bark color is a warm reddish-brown and the outer bark color is white - with occasional black stripes / breaks created by the lenticels. Cut out the basic container shape and then bend the four sides up so that the outer bark - with its double curve designs - forms the outer surface. Overlap the ends of the long sides above the short arched ends (with

their three petaled flowers).

Refer to the image of the actual container for guidance. You can secure the overlapping ends with various materials including glue sticks. For sturdier results and more learning, use short lengths of jute, yarn, or the fresh inner bark of basswood. Insert these through one or two holes in the overlapping sections that you make with a push pin or a very sharp twig. Tie the fibers with a knot or bow.



Based to some degree upon Woodland Period birch containers from the collection of the Peabody Museum of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. These are illustrated and explained in the excellent reference book: Indian Handicrafts by C. Keith Wilbur, 1990.

A Finished Container

