

August 2009

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SAIKEI - LIVING LANDSCAPES

Landscape Views

The e.magazine of the International Saikei Association





Saikei in Hove

Brian Dale

The International Association of Saikei (ISA) picked up 3 new members at the Sussex Bonsai Show in Hove this month.

Dave gave a good demo (as usual) creating a Saikei in the coastal style in just a little over an hour (see picture below).

It was interesting to see that we had hardened Bonsai enthusiasts and the general public looking at the stand and asking questions. It just goes to show that Saikei appeals to all.

As this is our last show of the season. We would like to hear about any shows that we might be able to display at next year.



Well Done!!!

David Penny

The International Saikei Association would like to congratulate the following members who all achieved a Unit 1 & 2 pass in Basic Saikei.

- Brian Dale
- Holly-May Penny
- Bruce Scrivens

To find out more about the Learning Opportunities offered by the International Saikei Association email;

david.penny@saikei.co.uk





In The Workshop

Fukinsei - Asymmetry

When we look at superb trees in nature they are very rarely symmetrical in shape in fact asymmetry is an absolute necessity if we are to achieve a natural look in Saikei. I often get asked "why do you always use odd numbers of trees in Saikei plantings"? The answer is, that if we use even numbers the mind can categorise and organise into nice groups. Where as, if you use odd numbers the eye finds this more difficult.



In this planting you can see asymmetry at work the two groups are split by a 'river' which is situated off centre, the moss under planting has different visual weights and the trees on the left hand side are taller by about a 5th which aids the naturalness of this planting, all in all a superb planting.

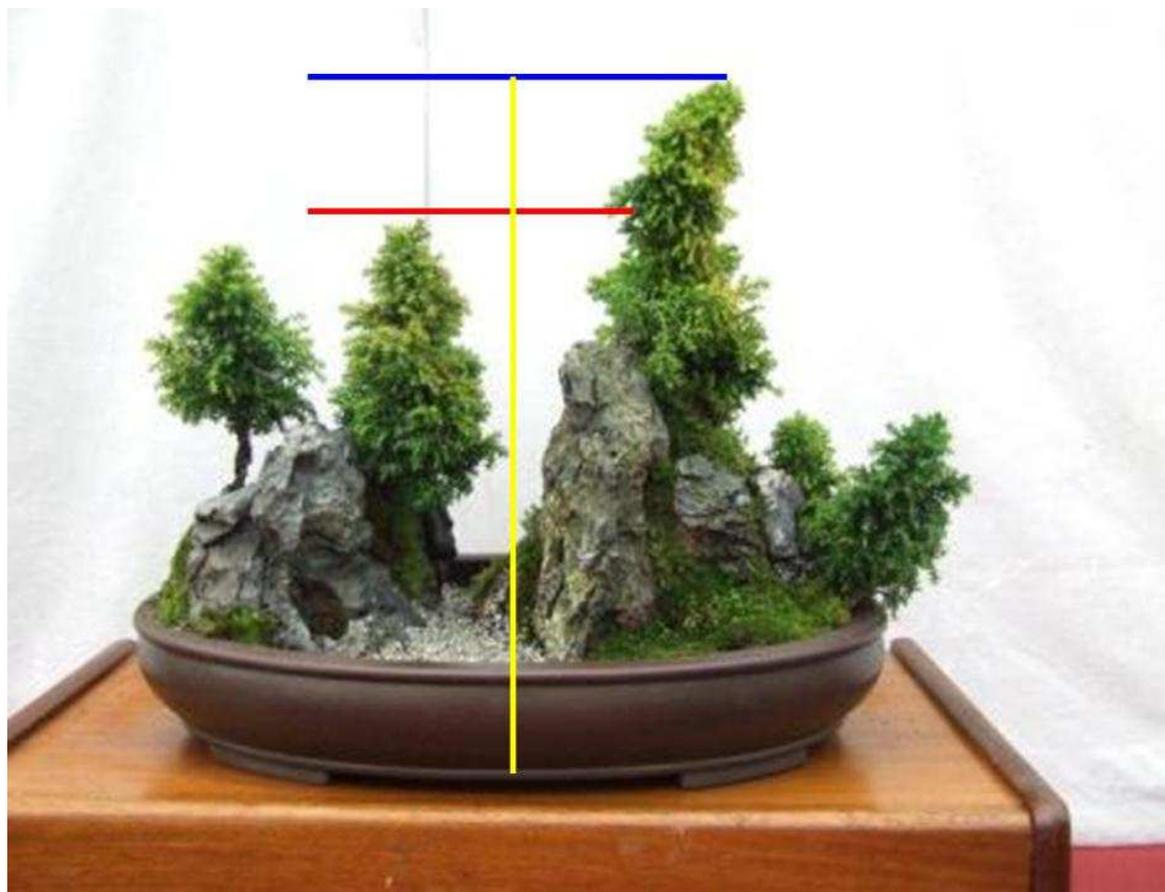
All this can sound very mathematical and after all (I hear you say) Saikei are both art forms. This is very true but understanding this and other artistic aesthetics is as important as tools in our arsenal for designing Saikei. As they will often make the difference between a good Saikei and an excellent one.

Asymmetry can also help in the creation of movement through the planting as our eyes will always be drawn to the largest or visually heaviest aspect of the planting (unless there is a strong feature) so in the planting above the eye naturally travels to the left hand side of the planting.



In Saikei we will use asymmetry all the time in fact I have trawled through the internet to find a symmetrical Saikei, but I cant find one which just goes to show that asymmetry is natural in Saikei.

In the planting below you can see that the whole planting including the rocks use this principle to create a natural, un-ordered planting.



Key Features:

- The planting moves right to left due to the difference in height of the planting.
- The yellow line shows the centre line of the pot and you can see that the two planting areas are not the exact same distance from the centre line this is done to avoid uniformity and to bring in the naturalness of the planting.
- The blue and red line show clearly the difference in height between the 2 plantings.



Achieving Asymmetry

There are a number of points to remember, which I have outlined below;

- Avoid placing trees or the main planting in the centre of the pot, always place on the left or right of the centre line.
- Avoid having trees of the same height.
- Don't plant trees or arrange rocks in straight lines.
- Don't lose sight of the fact that we are being creative, most of the time these will naturally occur so don't get too hung up on following the 'rules'.

Hope this will help with your creations.

David Penny

David's Blog

Brian Dale

David has started a blog on Saikei called "Saikei World" please visit the site and leave any comments. He will be posting regular articles and information about Saikei.

www.internationalsaikei.blogspot.com

A Word of Warning

When creating your saikei remember that its contents — rocks, soil, sand etc, will become extremely heavy.

Always use a good quality container (cheap containers may flex or even brake).



International Saikei Association

INTERNATIONAL SAIKEI ASSOCIATION

Landscape Views

Suppliers

Green Lawns Bonsai, Hadleigh Road, Boxford, Nr Sudbury, CO10 5JH

Phone: 08700347765
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Downsview Bonsai, 126 Wannock Lane, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9SJ

Phone: 01323 485656
Email: info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk
Website: www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk

Southampton Bonsai Trees 6, Farmery Close, Swaythling, Southampton, SO18 2JX

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Website: www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk

Bushukan Bonsai Ricbra, Lower Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 5NL

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Email: bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net
Website: www.bushukan-bonsai.com

Affiliated Bonsai Groups

Dai Ichi Bonsai Group (Essex)

Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club (Sussex)

Meets Hellingly Village Hall, 2nd Monday of the Month, call 01323 731 369

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