

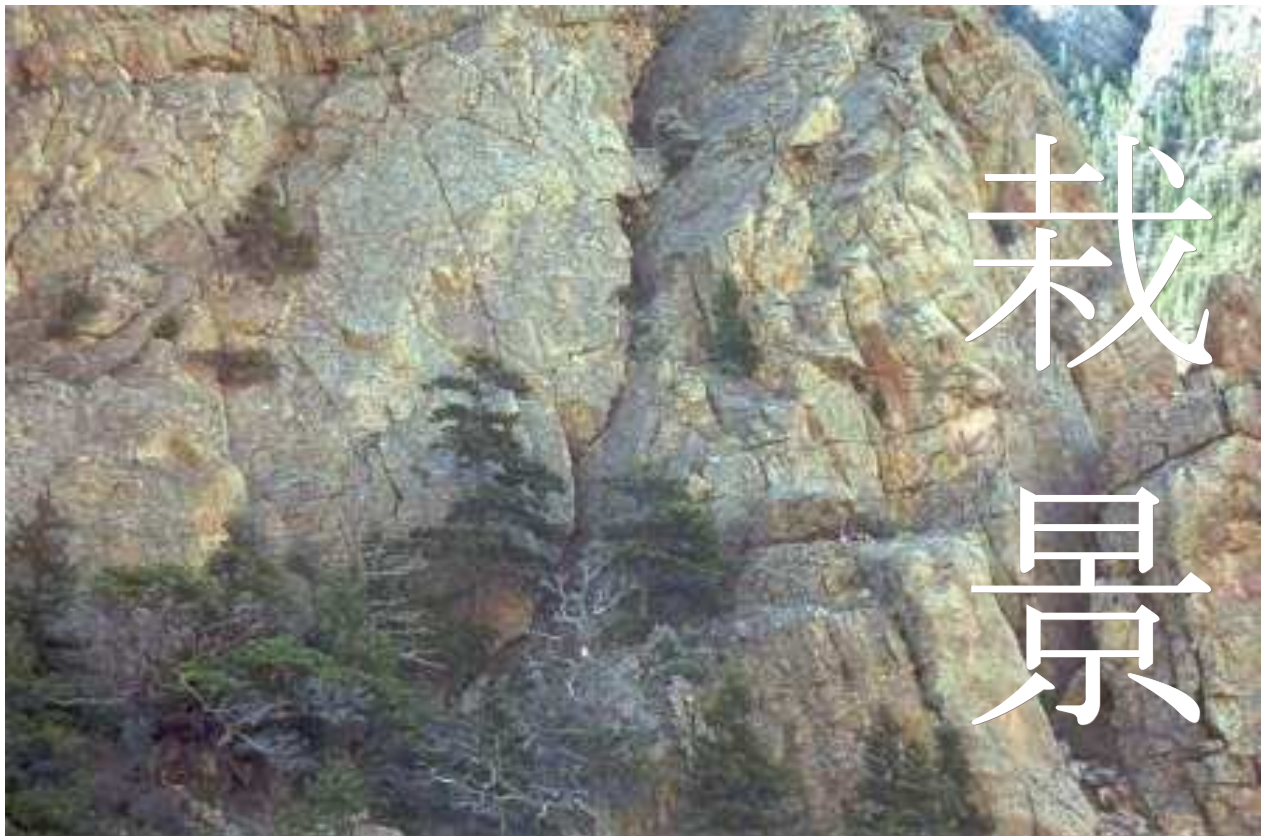
September 2009

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# SAIKEI - LIVING LANDSCAPES

## Landscape Views

The e.magazine of the International Saikei Association





## New Website

Dave Penny

After extensive problems with our old website, mainly that a lot of people could not access it. The Executive have decided that we will create an entirely new website.

The new website will contain more information about Saikei and a diary page will include details about events on Saikei.

As soon as it is up and running we will let people know, but it should be by the end of September.



Page from the new website

## Membership and its Benefits

Brian Dale

Starting in 2010 there will be two charges for membership. Single £5 and Family £8.

Membership will run for 12 months from the time it was taken out.

An email reminder will be sent when your membership fee is due.

**Now for the benefits:** First and foremost you get the e.magazine.

You will also receive discounts on Saikei DVDs, usually sold for £10 but to members only £6.

A dedicated help line for when trouble strikes.

We are also planning on holding Saikei workshops in the near future as well as monthly email step by step guides to creating your own saikei masterpieces with qualifications at all levels.



## In The Workshop

### Kanso

*'Kanso – is the elimination of the ornate it is simplicity and basic by the removal of the ornate the object becomes truthful to their materials, uncomplicated and calm'.*

In Saikei we remove the ornate and try to create natural landscapes trees are delicately styled to reflect their position in our landscape setting. This is the main reason that we eliminate ornaments in our landscapes.

Fussiness in planting should be avoided, it is best to avoid complexity with plants visually competing with each other.

**“A fussy Saikei will lead to fussy mind in the viewer”**

Talking for myself in both Bonsai and Saikei I will feel uneasy if the tree or planting has been over styled. I will often enjoy a bonsai with large amounts of Jin and Shari (Deadwood) for their image but not necessarily for their naturalness which is at the heart of Saikei.

I recently saw a planting on rock in which the trees had been styled individually without a great deal of thought for their relationship to the landscape as a whole or the other trees around them, I became confused, (not difficult these days), in my mind as I battled with the natural forces at work on the landscape and ended up with my blood pressure up and a headache (I joke), but it certainly did not relax me and I couldn't look at it for long, in essence it was too fussy. To make matters worse the artist had used a large selection of different species of alpine plant to create a mountainous feel.

Later I had a discussion with one of the members who asked me 'how could it be improved' I simply answered that the planting needed simplifying and the trees needed to be delicately styled considering the natural forces at work in the imaginary landscape.

When we look at Saikei masterpieces by Toshio Kawamoto we see that the plantings are simple.



The Saikei above called peninsular is a planting that really appeals to me, it is simple and uncomplicated and yet the movement of the trees suggests a rugged coast. There are no fishermen or little boats needed the only suggestion made of water is the white sand that represents waves breaking on the shore. Likewise there are no alpinas used here only different mosses to suggest light and shade.

In Saikei we should always aim to provide a 'calm' planting that is restful to the mind of the viewer this will help them to understand the planting and see the nature within. I believe you will instinctively know when you have achieved this but keeping the planting simple will help.

Some guidelines to create Kanso in your landscape:

- Try not to use ornaments on Saikei, and if you do, use them sparingly.
- Utilise only the amount of trees you need to create the landscape, don't add more in because you have them.
- Style the trees delicately do not create too much style and ensure that when styling they reflect the shape of the largest tree.
- Use mosses to represent ground cover rather than alpinas as this will help with the simplicity of the planting.
- Try not to crowd the Saikei.

Consider your feelings when looking at the Saikei, if you feel uneasy other people will too.

Yours in Saikei, David Penny



# International Saikei Association

INTERNATIONAL SAIKEI ASSOCIATION

## Landscape Views

### Suppliers

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

Phone: 08700347765

Email: [enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk)

Website: [www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk](http://www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk)

**Downsview Bonsai**, 126 Wannock Lane, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9SJ

Phone: 01323 485656

Email: [info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk](mailto:info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk)

Website: [www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk](http://www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk)

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

Phone: 023 8049 5729

Email: [info@bonsai-trees.com](mailto:info@bonsai-trees.com)

Website: [www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk](http://www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk)

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

Phone: 01702 201029

Email: [bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net](mailto:bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net)

Website: [www.bushukan-bonsai.com](http://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

#### **International Association of Saikei Administration:**

70 Forest Rise, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2ES.

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#### **International Association of Saikei Membership:**

Brian Dale

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