

October 2009

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SAIKEI - LIVING LANDSCAPES

Landscape Views

The ezine of the International Saikei Association

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Prepare for winter

David Penny

I hate to say it but it won't be long before we have to start getting coats, hats and scarves out of the cupboard (this will not of course affect those of you in sunny climates, lucky you). These days our coats are more to keep out the rain than the snow, but the cold nights are not far away and our poor Saikei cannot put on their coats so we will have to protect them.

I have indicated the tips that I give to my students for winter care:

- Protect against frost as much as possible but avoid the use of heaters as this may bring on an early spring for your Saikei.
- Watch your watering don't end up flooding your roots and denying them oxygen, water only when needed.
- Stop feeding during the winter period as the trees and plants don't need it.
- If you want any moss next year protect against marauding birds.

Winter solitude,
in a world of one colour
the sound of wind.

Matsuo Basho



Your Views

Brian Dale

The International Saikei Association (ISA) executive would like to hear from you about the direction that you would like to see the association take. With our new website which we control we hope to be able to provide a raft of new experiences to you as members and would like to hear from you about events, etc... and what you would like to see from ISA.

Please email brian.dale@saikei.co.uk

Temporary Break from Article Series

David Penny

Due to the production of the new website we have taken a temporary break from the series on Zen aesthetics in Saikei, and will return to it next month.

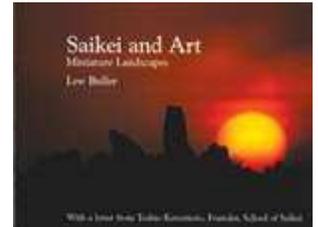
Books on Saikei

Paul Eslinger

Saikei and Art, Miniature Landscapes

Author - Lew Butler
Publisher - Lew Butler
ISBN - 0-9772443-0-X

Library of Congress Catalog Control Number - 2005907221



The development of Saikei within the context of an individual's national comprehension is well illustrated in this book. It is a well presented modern journey of discovery that takes the Asian syntax of our art and translates it into a western US context.

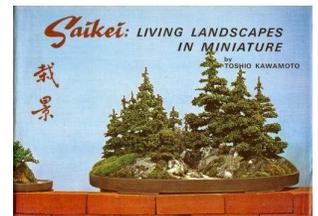
While some of the Saikei illustrated are very twee, the development of principles and the horticultural information is first class. The identification of plant material shared adds to the pool of knowledge available to the Saikei student.

This is a useful addition, if not a priority, to add to your bookshelf.

Saikei: Living Landscapes in Miniature

Author - Toshio Kawamoto
Publisher - Kodansha International Ltd
ISBN - 0-87011-048-9

Library of Congress Catalog Control Number - 67-26311



This is the definitive English definition of Saikei written by Toshio Kawamoto as a framework for the development of what was then an emerging art form. While the presentation may be of the '60s, the artistic and technical content still stands at the forefront of our art.

A huge amount of information well presented and structured to inform the student of Saikei as they develop their understanding. It develops the students understanding of the elements of composition and the balance necessary to create and maintain Saikei of substance.

This book belongs on the bookshelf of every student of Saikei.



Creating Bonsai Landscapes, 18 Miniature Garden Projects

Author - Su Chin Ee
Publisher - Storey Publishing
ISBN - 1-58017-484-1
Library of Congress Catalog Control Number -



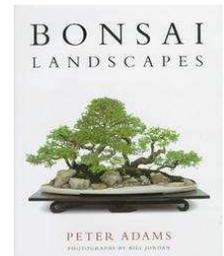
With a strong Chinese influence the 18 projects outlined here are very much in the penjing and as such will enrich the student of Saikei's portfolio. The projects show a range of animal and spiritual themes derived from the traditions and mythology of China but with just a hint of occidental pragmatism.

The approaches to creating containers, the use of material and the aesthetics will add to the richness of your approach to Saikei. The balance of this book is focused on the practical creation of penjing and as such gives practical guidance to the student of Saikei as they experiment with technique and develop their own pallet.

This is a useful addition, although not at the top of the list, to add to your bookshelf.

Bonsai Landscapes

Author - Peter Adams
Publisher - Ward Lock
ISBN - 0-7063-7767-2
Library of Congress Catalog Control Number – 94-13707



With an eye to the artistic, this book takes a literal interpretation of landscape as its principal. The designs and ethos outlined are very European in their perspective and only pay peripheral respect to the Asian traditions. The outline of the artistic approach is excellent and while some of the elements are closer to what we would know as kusamono today.

The development and outline of the artistic analysis is of the highest standard but has only a limited value to a student of Saikei. The drawings and planned development as well as care analysis are of the highest standard and very useful to all of us and will translate well into Saikei.

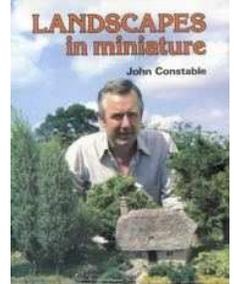
This is a useful addition, but would be a little way down the list before you add it to your bookshelf.



Landscape in Miniature

Author - John Constable
Publisher - Lutterworth Press and Sheldon Press
ISBN - 0-7188-2602-7 or 0-85969-412-7 (Paperback)
- 0-7188-2608-6 or 0-85969-435-6 (Hardback)

Library of Congress Catalog Control Number -



A very unusual approach to miniature landscapes, a little Legoland in its approach, and definitely not a serious text on Saikei. Having said that the book is not a Saikei text it offers excellent advice on plant varieties and the horticulture of growing them in Saikei type environments.

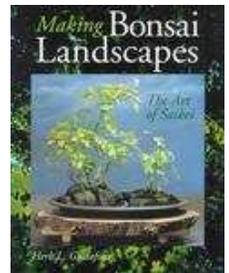
If we leave the model making out the information on plants is very useful. The rest of the book has little value to the student of Saikei.

Borrow a copy from the library, unless you happen across a low cost copy.

Miniature Living Bonsai Landscapes, The Art of Saikei

Author - Herb L Gustafson
Publisher - Stirling Publishing Co Inc
ISBN - 0-8069-0734-7

Library of Congress Catalog Control Number -



This book provides a comprehensive analysis of the techniques, tools material and all of the other elements that allow the student of Saikei to increase their comprehension of the techniques and approaches required to create Saikei of interest. The analysis of the history and the elements that are behind Saikei is clearly laid out and easy to follow.

Uncharacteristically for the author the technical content provided here has far greater value than the artistic content. The content lays out in some detail the material the rocks, the soils, the plants etc. Perhaps most importantly for the student of Saikei there is a good outline of the care of Saikei.

This is a useful addition to your bookshelf but not essential



International Saikei Association

INTERNATIONAL SAIKEI ASSOCIATION

Landscape Views

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