

March 2010

栽景

# SAIKEI - LIVING LANDSCAPES

## Landscape Views

The e-magazine of the International Saikei Association



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## Welcome

Editor

Hello and welcome to this newsletter. We have some good news for all full members as we are now able to offer study packs for those wishing to study towards the new learning opportunities.

The first is the Award in Saikei (AiS) which is officially available from the 1st of April 2010.

## Hot Off the Press - AGM10

Editor

The board are starting to look at the 2010 agm and was wondering how many members would be attending, the reason we are asking is the size of the location needed.

We are also seeking views on the Association and suggestions of ways of improving what we are currently providing to members.

So please let us know if you will be attending or if you have any comments.

## New Learning Opportunities

The association has created a learning framework for those interested in studying Saikei. See the article inside. We currently have 2 students studying the AiS, 2 studying for CiS1 and 3 studying for CiS2. Good luck to all those on the framework.





## Starting out in Saikei

David Penny

In order to do Saikei you will need certain elements to create your plantings. Saikei are nearly always completely natural so we don't generally use coloured sands or little ornaments these are more in the realm of Bonkei which use mainly false elements to make a diorama. We use natural grits to represent water, etc...

### Trees

Trees are used as one of the main elements in Saikei. They should have small leaves, be strong growing, be tolerant of dry and wet conditions, have good trunks, resemble a full size tree and be able to grow in a pot.



### Rocks

Rocks are the other main element in a Saikei they should have interesting shapes, be of the same type of rock (don't mix rock types), mature well, last well in weather conditions and have the ability to resemble cliff faces etc... the rock does not need to be perfect as any defects can be covered with soil or moss.



### Mosses

We often have it said 'it looks great now the moss is on', this is because moss can add the ground cover that people expect to see when looking at a landscape for that reason it is important that we select mosses that look natural. They must be low growing but we should mix different mosses to give a varied surface to the soil.



*(Continued from page 3)*

### Aggregates

In Saikei there are many occasions where we might use grit or sand to represent water or a rock slide. When using aggregates it is important to ensure that the particle size is small or where you are using it to represent a rock/land slide the particles are irregular in shape and size. You should always try to pick aggregates which harmonise with the rocks and trees in the planting.

### Pots

In Saikei we use shallow trays to provide the base of our plantings these are generally unglazed and can be sourced from good bonsai stockist. It is ok to use glazed trays for Saikei but try to restrict this to deciduous plantings. The criteria for pots are detailed below:

1. Have good drainage.
2. Be strong as they will have to hold a lot of weight.
3. Be subtle so that the eye is not drawn to the pot instead of the planting.



### Soil

It goes without saying that if we are going to use plants they need to be planted in soil. You should always try to use a soil that has the following properties:

1. Free draining.
2. Will absorb water without becoming over wet.
3. Will hold on to nutrients and pass them to the plants when needed.
4. Be mouldable so that you can create soil surface shape.

## Learning Opportunities

David Penny

### Qualification and Credits Framework ISA

*Every new qualification and unit on the ISA-QCF has a credit value, showing how long it takes to complete. One credit is equivalent to 10 hours. This can include time spent learning in a variety of ways – not necessarily being taught by someone.*

### ISA Awards and Certificates

| Award                          | Study Hours | Credits | Units | Practical | Written Paper |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-----------|---------------|
| Award in Saikei (AiS)          | 10          | 1       | 1     | Yes       | No            |
| Certificate in Saikei 1 (CIS1) | 20          | 2       | 3     | Yes       | Yes           |
| Certificate in Saikei 2 (CIS2) | 40          | 4       | 2     | Yes       | Yes           |
| Certificate in Saikei 3 (CIS3) | 80          | 8       | 2     | Yes       | Yes           |
| Certificate in Saikei 4 (CIS4) | 160         | 16      | 2     | Yes       | Yes           |

Example Text taken from the AiS

### [The Award in Saikei AiS](#)

#### [Introduction](#)

Welcome to the Award in Saikei (AiS) developed by the International Saikei Association (ISA) in association with Saikei-en. This award is the first level of the learning opportunities offered to the members of ISA and has been developed with those in mind who have no Saikei or Bonsai experience, it is not designed to teach in great depth the art of Saikei but rather to give the individual a basic understanding of the meaning, styles and materials of Saikei.

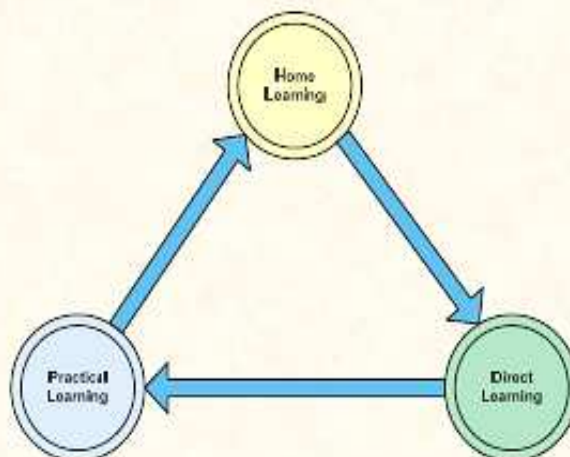
#### [Structure and Progression](#)

##### [Structure](#)

The award is structured to reflect the certificate level so that if you choose to carry on with

The individual opinions expressed in this issue are not necessarily those of the International Saikei Association.

your learning, which we hope you will, you will find the course structure familiar. The common structure is illustrated below:



### Home Learning (HL)

The home learning is based around handouts provided to you in advance of the direct/practical learning it is a chance for you to absorb some basic information at a pace and time that suits you, but if you find it easier to listen than to read we can provide the materials as a series of audio files sent to you by email.

### Direct Learning (DL)

The direct learning is conducted in a workshop environment so is very relaxed. The direct learning will include demonstrations of technique which you will then use in the practical sessions.

### Practical Learning (PL)

This is the chance for you to put into practice the knowledge you have gained in the HL and DL sessions and create a Saikei.

### Progression

Once you have completed your Award you will then be given the opportunity to start to study towards the Certificate in Saikei Level 1 (CiS1) and beyond. It is recommended that you have a period between studies to gain some practical experience of creating and keeping Saikei, unless you have been growing Saikei for a reasonable period.

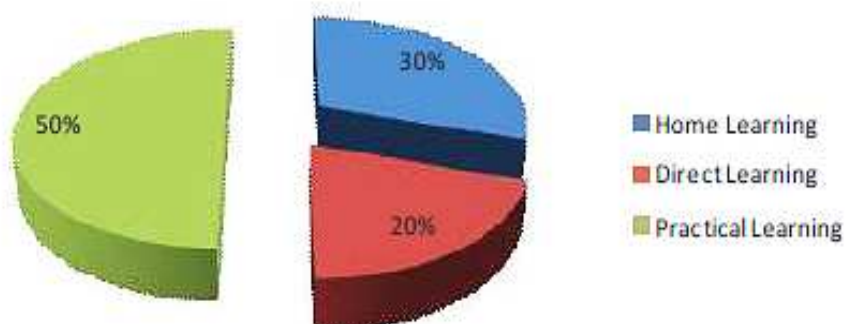
## Time and Testing

### Time

The award will take:

| Learning Type | Hours | % of Credit |
|---------------|-------|-------------|
| HL            | 3     | 30          |
| DL            | 2     | 20          |
| PL            | 5     | 50          |
| Total         | 10    | 100         |

### AiS Learning Time



### Testing

There is no test in the AiS but you are expected to attain the credits and achieving the Award is subject to the tutor being satisfied that you have achieved the necessary standard.

### Award Certificate

When you achieve the AiS you will receive a certificate from ISA acknowledging that you have completed the necessary content and gained the credit required. Each certificate is numbered for reference and where membership names are listed you will have the AiS letters added to ensure that other members are aware that you have achieved the Award.

If you wish to enrol or learn more about the Learning Opportunities please contact us on [learning@saikei.co.uk](mailto:learning@saikei.co.uk)



**Suppliers**

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

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

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**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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