

Landscape Views

The newsletter of the International Saikei Association

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July 2010



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This E-Magazine is provided to members of the International Saikei Association

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Quick News and Board Activity

Board News

Editor

We are delighted to announce that the new financial system will be in place from the middle of August allowing membership fees to be collected electronically via the pay pal online payment system.

The board is under discussion about extending the current membership scheme beyond the one level of member to a number of levels to reflect the learning levels achieved by members.

Around the World

Editor

We are delighted to welcome some new members from Australia and the United States of America.

We are seeking some individuals from outside the UK to contribute a brief article about Saikei in their own country or any other local based article on Saikei or other landscape arts.

The workshop and lecture in Croatia is due to go ahead on the 4th and 5th of September, if any member is interested they should contact Hrvoje Knezovic on the following email address

hknezovi@crobonsai.com

Learning Opportunities News

Learning Coordinator

We will shortly be running a level 2 Certificate course in the UK and by distance learning. To register your interest please contact learning@saikei.co.uk

The new DVD which covers the Level 1 Certificate learning and basic techniques will be available slightly later than the revised date of 01.06.10 due to scheduling problems with the filming of a couple of additional scenes, we will keep you notified. To register your interest in the DVD priced at £12.00 for members and £18.00 for non members please email Brian Dale on brian.dale@saikei.co.uk

Rock Stabilisation

David Penny

Introduction

In Saikei it is important that we stabilise all rocks to prevent movement and the subsequent change from our original image for the composition. During construction of our Saikei we must ensure that the stabilisation is secure and friendly to the planting we will do. Rocks are used in Saikei for their look and their structural capability and we will explore this during this handout.

Why Stabilise

As mentioned in the introduction stabilisation is important due to the need to produce an image which is fixed, in Bonsai the tree is tied into the pot this is to ensure that the tree does not move damaging roots but also to make sure that the tree once designed remains at the artists angle and it does not shift throwing the design off balance. Saikei artists spend much time finding the face* of the rock and to lose that precious angle July damage the quality and design of the composition which brings us on to the second reason why we stabilise rocks, this reason is purely artistic and it is too change the angle of the rock to suit the composition. This means that it is possible through stabilisation methods to put an angle on a rock that under normal circumstances would be impossible due to balance and that old enemy of Saikei enthusiasts, 'Gravity'. It is important to remind everyone that Saikei are natural so the cutting or shaping of rock is not encouraged, this is due in part to the fact that if you take the planting apart you will have potentially ruined that rock for future plantings. The last reason that we stabilise is to provide a structural element that can be used to provide support for planting. These rocks will not normally have a face but we would warn against using a different type of rock due to the annoying habit of these rocks to end up showing in your composition.

So to recap there are 3 reasons why you use and stabilise rock:

- To ensure a solid design that will not move.
- To overcome the design limitations placed by the shape of the rock.
- To provide a solid structural element to support planting.

Stabilisation Methods

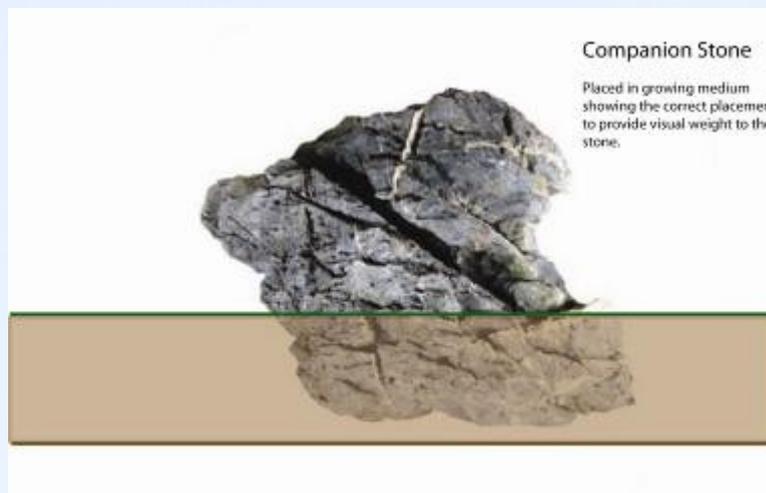
Because we July wish to take the Saikei apart at some stage we avoid the use of permanent fixing methods favouring those that allow some flexibility. It is worth mentioning that there are 3 levels of stabilisation with 3 methods commonly used for stabilisation.

- Companion rocks that do not require any support.
- Feature Rocks that July only require limited support.
- Structural Rocks that require full support.

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Companion Rocks

Companion rocks are used to support the look of the composition but serve only an artistic role in the Saikei. Rocks of this type do not normally require secure stabilisation and can be placed on the growing medium. A word of caution always make sure that the rock is partially embedded as this will help to portray the weight of the rock and add to the feeling of age.

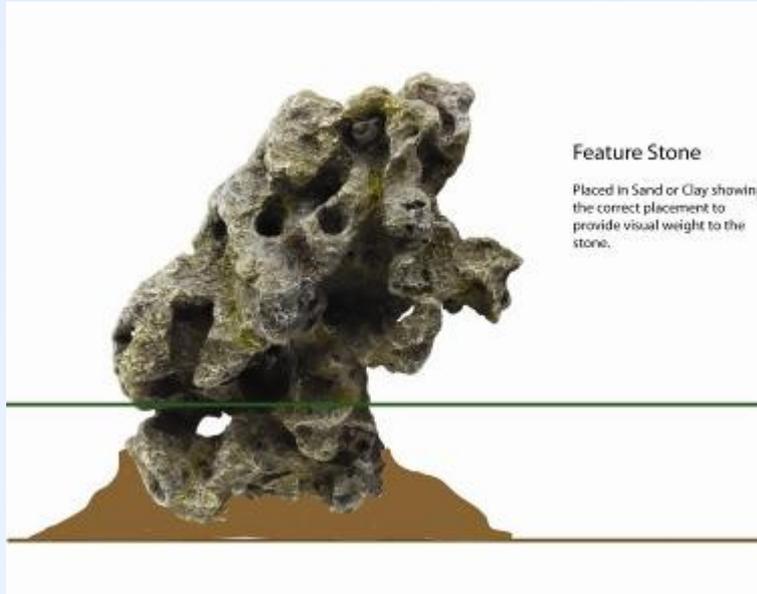


Feature Rocks

Feature rocks are the face of the rock element in the Saikei they provide the foundation of the image and will often dictate the style of the Saikei. These rocks must be securely stabilised in order to prevent the image from changing due to rock shift, we recommend the use of sand or clay depending on the size and shape of the rock. We make up our own clay composition as follows:

- 6 parts Garden Clay
- 2 parts Organic Compost
- 2 parts Fine Sand

The sand and organic compost is there to help the roots to penetrate the clay. The mix should be gradually hydrated until it forms a sticky but mouldable mass, you can now roll into balls ready for use. When you want to place the rock in the tray spray the base of the pot lightly with water then place clay ball in position and push the rock firmly into the clay ball spreading the clay outwards, you July need to firm the clay around the base of the rock to ensure stability.



Structural Rocks

Structural rocks are used to form the planting area and July or July not show in the planting it is still important to use the same rock type as often as a composition matures I find that these structural rocks end up being seen. The stabilisation of these rocks is the same as that for feature rocks.

Suppliers

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

Phone: 08700347765

Email: enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk

Website: www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk

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

Phone: 023 8049 5729

Email: info@bonsai-trees.com

Website: www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk

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

Phone: 01702 201029

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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