

SAIKEI International

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In This Issue

- Romanian Saikei Association
- 5 Elements of Saikei



International
Saikei
Association

Since 1962

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APOLOGIES

Before we go any further I have been asked by a president to make the following apology for the lateness and scarcity of this newsletter. Due to a number of factors including hard drive failure and an increased workload the president had a problem formulating this month's newsletter.

Our president has assured me that maize newsletter will arrive on time and will contain the same level of content that you have got used to.

Written on behalf of our president David Penny.

GENERAL NEWS

I am delighted to be able to report the formation of the Romanian Saikei Association, I would like to wish the new association the very best of luck and offer our support. If you would like to know more about the Romanian Saikei Association please see their website. A full report of this new venture can be found in this newsletter.

WEBSITE

We have not received any responses as yet to our plea for help in identifying content for the new website. We can only ensure the success of the Association if all individuals come together and work as a team.

This is the plea as it appeared in the March newsletter:

'The re writing of our website is well underway but we are still seeking input from members. One of the major changes will be the simplification of the country pages we will be seeking to put the information onto one page instead of 3 to make the information more accessible to users of the website.

We would like to include a welcome in the language of the country they are accessing, so if anyone is able to provide a translation it would be greatly appreciated'.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for individuals to sit on a group to further develop the learning opportunities program. There will be no travel required as all communication will be done via email. If you are interested please contact learning@saikei.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP

If you are aware of anyone that could be interested in joining the association we would be delighted to welcome them into our association.

If you wish for us to make contact please provide the individuals email address to the membership team membership@saikei.co.uk

SHOWS

We have been invited to display two shows this year and we have included the details. If you are aware of any shows concerning Bonsai and Saikei we will be delighted to hear about these and we will of course put them in the magazine so that all members are aware. In order to enter an event we only need to know the name of the event, where it will take place, dates and times and contact for further information.

Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club Annual Show 2012

Stone Cross Hall, Stone Cross, Eastbourne.

16th of June 2012

Bonsai, Saikei, Martial Arts, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc...

Green Lawns Bonsai Nursery 2012 Show

Hadleigh Road, Boxford, Sudbury, CO10 5JH

01787 210 501

1st of September 2012

Bonsai, Saikei, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc...

Your Event Name Here

Where

When

Description

Your Event Name Here

Where

When

Description

BACK TO BASICS

THE 5 ELEMENTS OF SAIKEI

There are 5 basic elements to a successful Saikei these being:

- Harmony
- Scale
- Balance
- Interest
- Consistency

I actually use these principles when I asked to evaluate a Saikei (so be warned).

HARMONY

Dictionary Meaning – *“A consistent, orderly, or pleasing arrangement of parts; congruity”*.

Harmony is one of the easiest of the 5 to feel, I say feel with good reason for you are more likely to feel that a composition is wrong than you are to see it. How many times have you approached a bonsai and FELT that something is wrong, I use this feeling all the time as some of you will know it is a good indicator that something is not right.

Harmony is difficult to explain it is easier to illustrate to you with a mental image, imagine that you are looking at a Saikei it is a windswept setting with the wind moving left to right, now, one tree is leaning to the left, into the wind, this would disrupt the harmony of the planting because the tree goes against the flow.

All the materials of the Saikei must come together to form a harmonious whole.

SCALE

Dictionary Meaning – *“A proportion used in determining the dimensional relationship of a representation to that which it represents”*.

This is simple to illustrate, I always use a phrase that attendees to my Saikei workshops know only too well “a blade of grass is rarely as tall as a man”.

For a beginner to Saikei this is a concept which can be difficult to grasp if you decide in advance what scale you are going to do your landscape in and select materials with that in mind you will be half way there.

I always find that the trees will define the scale of the composition once you are able to visualise the trees scale you will be able to define the under planting height and foliage size. For example a heather or thyme might become a rhododendron growing under a tree.

BALANCE

Dictionary Meaning – *“composition or placement of elements of design, as figures, forms, or colours, in such a manner as to produce an aesthetically pleasing or harmoniously integrated whole”*.

Balance is another that is difficult to describe. The dictionary description is quite good in that it explains that balance is a compositional/visual issue a balanced Saikei is where the viewer does not get a sense of instability. Looking at bonsai for a moment try to imagine a tree with a large branch on the right side of the tree with a surface rootage that is also only on the right this would lack balance, and so it is with Saikei a composition with

the rock up against the right side of the pot and the trees gathered around the rock will lack balance, now if we move the rock in from the right side and add a small area of gravel then we can create balance.

INTEREST

Dictionary Meaning – *“something that concerns, involves, draws the attention of, or arouses the curiosity of a person”.*

A good Saikei should capture the imagination of the viewer and transport them to another place it will only do this if it has interest. This might be a river that curls round the back of the composition and leads the viewer to lean in closer to see if they can see round the corner, or it might be a overhang in a rock under which a small alpine grows.

In Saikei we try not to include any ornaments or paths as I have covered in previous articles for this reason all interest in Saikei is created using natural elements.

CONSISTENCY

Dictionary Meaning – *“agreement, harmony, or compatibility, esp. correspondence or uniformity among the parts of a complex thing”.*

Consistency is closely linked with harmony but is more involved with the physical elements. If we achieve consistency then we will be 80% towards harmony in the composition.

How do we achieve consistency? Consistency could be through the strata on the rock all going the same way or even the same type of rock. It may be the type and shape of plants that are consistent (I did see a composition once that had conifers and cacti together). So consistency will help you to achieve harmony.

In summary if you are achieving all 5 in a positive way the Saikei is likely to work.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

as we have mentioned the Romanian Saikei Association has been formed and we wish the members all the best in their future endeavours.

I understand that our president has already provided some articles for the website and has been in discussion with the organisers about providing regular articles that can be translated into Romanian.

If you would like to visit the website please use the following address and take a look at the site and perhaps leave a message to offer the organisers some encouragement.

<http://www.saikei.ro/>



VIEWS FROM A LENS—GALLERY



Riverside – David Penny



Moorland Rocks – John Brown



Outcrop – Anne Hall



Coastal – David Penny

SUPPLIERS

Name	Telephone	Address	Email	Website
Bushukan Bonsai	01702 201029	Ricbra, Lower Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 5NL	bushukan-bonsai@ic24.net	www.bushukan-bonsai.com
Southampton Bonsai Trees	02380 495729	6, Farmery Close, Swaythling, Southampton, SO18 2JX	info@bonsai-trees.com	www.bonsaitreessouthampton.co.uk
Downsview Bonsai	01323 485656	126 Wannock Lane, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9SJ	info@downsviewbonsai.co.uk	www.downsviewbonsaitreenursery.co.uk
Green Lawns Bonsai,	08700 347765	Hadleigh Road, Boxford, Nr Sudbury, CO10 5JH	enquiries@greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk	www.greenlawnsbonsai.co.uk

CLUBS

Name	Telephone	Address	Day of Meeting	Website
Dai Ichi Bonsai Group (Essex)	01277 625 298	Shenfield Village Hall	1st Monday of each month call	
Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club (Sussex)	01323 731 369	Hellingly Village Hall	2nd Monday of the Month	www.bonsai-club.co.uk
Eastleigh Bonsai Club (Hampshire)	01489 789 962 or 07795 187 632		2nd Monday of the Month	

If you would like to have your local club details added to this list please contact the newsletter team by e-mail newsletter@Saikei.co.uk

CONTACTS

Name	Role	Telephone	email
David Penny FISA (HON)	President	07909 846 885 01892 665 704	david.penny@saikei.co.uk
Paul Eslinger FISA (HON)	Senior Vice President	07795 187 632 01489 789 962	paul@eslinger.com
Brian Dale SISA	Vice President Membership Services	01323 731 369	membership@saikei.co.uk
Bruce Scrivens FISA (HON)	Vice President Finance		finance@saikei.co.uk
Newsletter			newsletter@saikei.co.uk

www.saikeiassociation.org

Administration Offices

International Saikei Association

70 Forest Rise

Crowborough

East Sussex

United Kingdom

TN6 2ES

t. +44 1892 665 704

President: David Penny

Senior Vice President: Paul Eslinger

Vice President Membership: Brian Dale

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

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