

Special points of interest:

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Saikei Demonstration at Solent Bonsai Society

By Brenda Martinez-Eslinger

A very enjoyable evening with David Penny taking you through the creation of a tray planting from scratch, touching briefly on the history of Saikei and how it dovetails nicely with the art of bonsai.

The alpine (referring to a mountain view as opposed to little plants of the same name) composition included loads of binding material (either keto or ordinary garden clay soil with tons of organic + drainage matter), a large shallow pot, 3 BIG and HEAVY rocks just this side of being suiseki material, and 3 Cryptomeria japonica 'Bandai-



David shows the audience how the 3 rocks are held together with clay soil.

sugi' pruned to resemble trees at high altitude. Oh, and loads of moss (or blackbird bait, whichever you prefer).

We ran out of time, so David was only able to moss up the front of the composition. I believe the fully finished product will be up for view at one of the shows he'll be demo-ing at in the summer.

If your club is looking for a speaker, then I'd strongly suggest considering David's Saikei talk.

Web Update

We are still having problems with our website. For some reason known only to themselves BT are still blocking it. Despite 21 calls trying to sort out the problem nobody seems to be able to tell us why.

Apparently if BT customers want to reconfigure their Broadband Hubs onto (wait for it) another BT server they will be able to access it.

Before you ask I did question how it was possible that 1 BT server was able to catalogue the site where as the



by David Penny

other couldn't but, yes you guessed it, I got no where.

For this reason I have started a blog on:

<http://internationalsaikei.blogspot.com/>

Which as far as I know is viewable for everyone.

Please visit this to hear about the latest news.

The good news is you can now find us on GOOGLE.

What does Saikei mean



I was recently asked by one of the members what does Saikei mean. I have included the following simple translation.

Sai - Means Planted

Kei - Means Landscape

This of course is the literal translation but of course it has come to be recognized as living landscape in a tray as opposed to Bonkei which are landscapes created using non natural materials.

by David Penny

In The Workshop

by David Penny

Introduction to this series

“Saikei uses the techniques of bonsai with trees, rocks, moss, plants and aggregates to form complete landscapes within the confines of a tray”.

David Penny 10.03.90

In this series I will be looking at Saikei, its history, styles, and their creation. I hope to introduce you to this fascinating art and arm you with some basic tips for creating Saikei.

About Saikei

To create a Saikei you will need small trees, rocks, moss, plants and aggregates and of course a tray.

Saikei gives the creator a better vent for their imagination. Many Saikei artist draw on places that they have visited to get inspiration often drawing on geological features and feelings of a place to create a Saikei.

Some Basic Saikei Facts

- Saikei originally developed from the Chinese art of Pen-Jing (Chinese landscapes).
- It lost popularity in the 1400's due to a focus on refined arts.
- Toshio Kawamoto a Japanese bonsai master and the owner of the Nippon bonsai and Saikei Institute rediscovered Saikei in the 1960's.
- Saikei is less stylised than Bonsai in that it puts less emphasis on trees and more emphasis on the whole.
- Saikei trees are less stylised and are generally more natural.
- Saikei has very few rules and so is a free form.
- Most students learn by starting with the one tree one rock form.

The Saikei Styles

Alpine

The alpine landscape is based around a mountain scene this style can be varied but will normally carry larger rocks that portray the mountainous nature of the composition.

During construction rocks are often used in a upright form so that they can portray the cliffs that are so common in mountainous areas. It is important that you study photos of mountains and alpine areas to gain a feel for the environmental aspects.



Lowland

Usually composed with fewer and smaller rocks this composition reflect our valleys and will often include water elements (aggregate to represent water).

The construction of lowland will only include a limited number of rocks perhaps to represent stones in a meandering river with trees on the bank. The secret to this style is to blend in soil levels and have gentle movement.



Coastal

These can be cliffs with windswept trees or a lake shore the use of rocks here is to create different levels so that the water can be imagined.

Probably one of my favorites to create the coastal gives a good range of possibilities. Like the alpine style this uses rocks to create the effect of cliffs but these are more varied in height and shape to reflect the scene. The placement of the rocks is very important in coastal scenes.



April Challenge

We are hoping that you will give this Saikai challenge a go:

Study the picture below and use it for inspiration. Now try to create a Saikai using the elements in the picture. Please forward pictures to david.penny@fleetrisk24.com

The winner will have their pictures published in the next newsletter.

Good Luck





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

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 731369

International Association of Saikei Administration:

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