30th edition

Landscape Views

The newsletter of the International Saikei Association 栽景

April 2011 Issue 30

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International Saikei Association

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Quick News and Board Activity

General News

Editor

The board is currently focused on upcoming shows.

We understand that David Penny will be working on some Saikei during the Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Show at Stonecross Hall on the 2nd of July and again at the show at Humbees, on July 17th.

David has after some pressure revealed that he is currently putting down on paper his knowledge of Saikei, we understand that some 16000 words have been written so far. We understand that he has started to look for a possible publisher, so if any of you have contacts please contact David.

Website

Editor

The new website is nearing completion with 50+ pages dedicated to Saikei it is the largest site on the web for this fascinating art.

We are currently in number 1 position with Google and the new website will ensure that we remain at the heart of International Saikei.

It is our hope that you will let us know about any events you have planned so that we can let other enthusiasts know about them through this newsletter and our website.

Send your news and events to newsletter@saikei.co.uk

Learning Opportunities News

Learning Coordinator

The dates for the next ISA Certificate level 1 will be announced shortly if you wish to register your interest please email learning@saikei.co.uk

We are also interested if you view this newsletter as part of the learning process as we do.

Events and Shows

Eastbourne Bonsai & Saikei Show 3rd of July 2011

Events Coordinator

The Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club will be holding their show on the 3rd of July. There will be a good selection of Bonsai and Saikei on display and David Penny will be giving a demonstration of Saikei.

The show will be open from 10.00—16.00

The address is : Stone Cross Hall, Stone Cross, Eastbourne, East Sussex

Eastleigh Bonsai Show 17th of July 2011

Events Coordinator

The Association has been invited to attend the Eastleigh Bonsai Group show at Humbee's Garden Centre which is almost directly opposite Marwell Zoo near Winchester.

The Association will be putting on a display of Saikei and members will be creating a few Saikei under the watchful eye of the president of ISA. There will also be around 90 bonsai on display.

The show will be open from 10.00—16.00

The address is: Thompsons Lane, Owslebury, Winchester, SO21 1JH

Bonsai World 2011 3rd and 4th of September 2011

Events Coordinator

The Association has been invited to attend the Bonsai World show at K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley, West Sussex.

The Association will be putting on a display of Saikei and other Japanese Cultural Activities will be demonstrated. There will also be some of the best bonsai in the country on display.

We will post more details in the next newsletter.

The address is: K2 Leisure Centre, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 9BQ

The website for further information is: http://www.bonsaiworld2011.co.uk

If any member outside the UK wishes to attend this event please contact us and we will arrange to have local information sent to you regarding where to stay, local airports, places to eat and local contacts for the Association.

Profile on David Penny

David was born in 1969 in the south east of England. He spent his childhood in Crowborough in East Sussex where he still lives with his family.

During the late 1970's David was exposed to the culture and traditional arts of Japan through a number of television programmes shown as part of a Japanese season following these programmes his passion for all things Japanese became a real focus of his life. He started to study the culture of Japan seriously and took up Karate until the club closed eventually moving on to Iaido in later life. His Japanese culture interest has also led to David studying the Japanese tea ceremony.

In 1979 he was given a Bonsai by his Grandparents and his love of Bonsai was started, he followed a natural path of starting to develop his own trees and in 1986 joined a local Bonsai Society . In 1989 David attended the National Bonsai Convention where he met and spent 2 days with the Japanese Master Mitsuo Matsui which as he often says changed his life and helped him to bring what he had learnt about Japanese culture to life.

It was at this convention that David first saw and fell in love with Saikei (Japanese Tray Landscapes) within 3 months of the convention he was hooked on Saikei. Since that time he has dedicated time and effort to the study of Saikei and its development using materials available in the UK. In 1995 he was instrumental in the foundation of the British Saikei Association with other saikei enthusiasts. In 2007 the British Saikei Association became the International Saikei Association in order to be able to serve the needs of Saikei enthusiasts and professionals around the world. David is now serving as President (Global) and travels both in the UK and around the World Demonstrating and Teaching Saikei and Bonsai to Bonsai Clubs and other interested Societies.

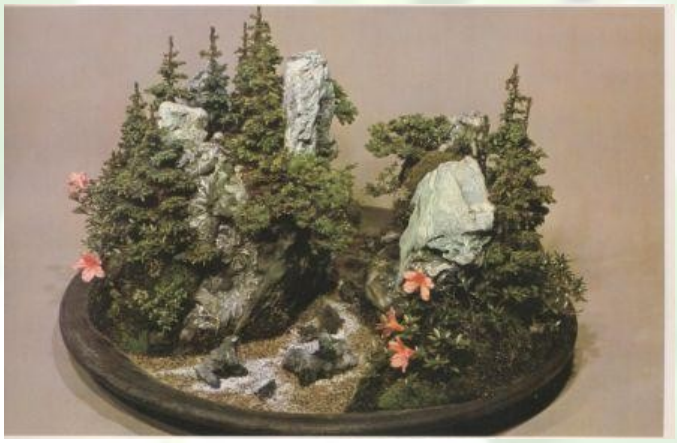
His passion and enthusiasm for Saikei is infectious and as he has said so many times David is at his most happiest when teaching and demonstrating Saikei. He loves talking to people and will happily talk for hours, so if you see him at a show come over introduce yourself and have a chat.

He infects all those he meets with his love of Saikei, so watch out if you meet him!!!

Back to Basics

Alpine Saikei

In this article we will be looking at the most dramatic style in Saikei that of Alpine (mountains to you and me). This is my favourite style in Saikei as it gives the most scope for interpretation, to illustrate this I have included 2 pictures of very famous Saikei by Toshio Kawamoto.



Alpine Ravine

Alpine Meadow

I am sure you can see the similar shape of the trees as apposed to the total difference in their use, in the ravine composition you can see the dramatic affect of the sheer cliffs falling into the rapids below, I can almost hear the water smashing against the rocks. The meadow planting however has a much less dramatic feel and although

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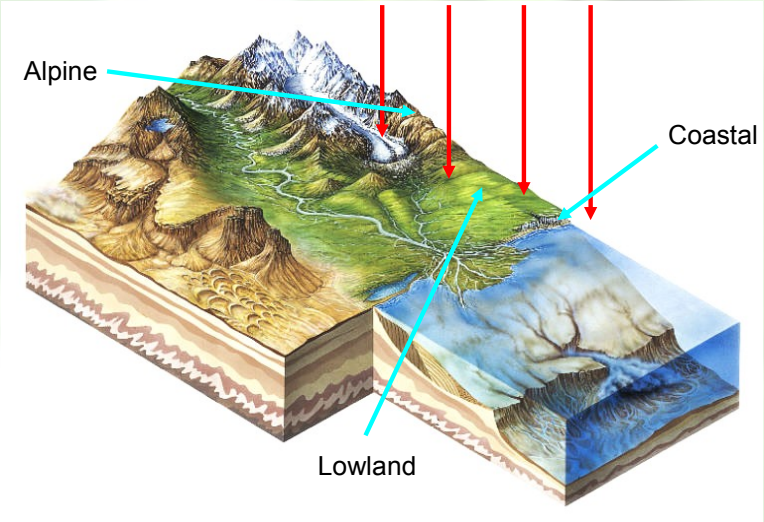
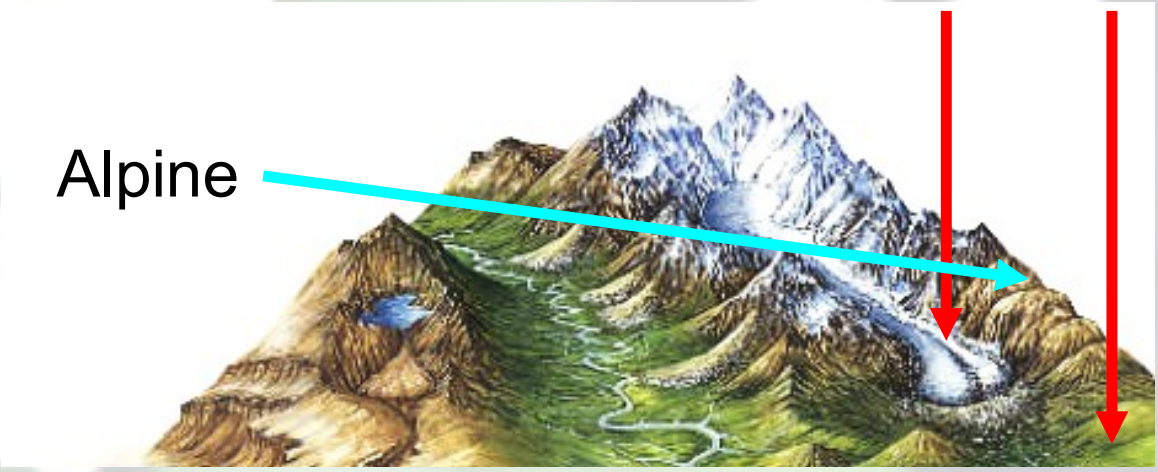
when I look at this I think of the highlands of Scotland and the cold wind that chills you, I believe it is a more relaxing composition.

As you can see the variation in this style is almost limitless but I recently used a picture in a demonstration which I think helps to define the 3 styles and their place in Saikei.



You can see the points in the landscape that relate to each style. I have taken alpine in a bit closer so you can see the variations involved



You can see that the Saikei design can be taken from the mountain top or side right down to the foot hills of the mountain.

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The secret to good alpine compositions is the position and aspect of the rocks, to truly explain rock placement and aspect would probably use up this handout, but a tip would be to think of the rock as a mountain side or as a part of a mountain and to study how mountains look.

To make an alpine Saikei you will need a tray, rock and trees suitable for the variation of alpine style you have chosen. The trees will need to be thin in width to give the impression of an alpine tree (I saw a lot of alpine larch and spruce in the Alps and they all had the same shape, tall and thin).

- Prepare the pot by covering the drainage holes with large grade net.
- Put in clay or sand where you need to place the rocks (remember if you are going to do a ravine or mountain side they must be secure)
- If you are creating a ravine or mountainside and you have more than 1 rock forming a cliff you may wish to place clay between the rocks to stabilise and prevent soil from falling out of the gaps.
- Now place a layer of soil so that when you place the trees they are level with the top of the cliff and put the trees in place. You may like to place trees in the side of the cliff and at the bottom particularly for a mountain side.
- Now mound the soil around the trees and place moss on the surface of the soil.

Note: Often a small amount of grit placed at the base of cliffs can be affective to represent rock falls.

I hope you have fun and look forward to seeing the results soon.

Saikei Tree - Selecting Trees and Cryptomeria

Reflecting Nature

At the end of the day the purpose of Saikei is to reflect a natural landscape so ultimately the best way to learn the formal upright is to go out and find some natural examples, study these trees and ask yourself what you feel when you look at one of these majestic beings. Try not to focus too much on the detail but rather the overall shape as this is what we are trying to capture in Saikei.

Choosing Trees for Saikei

When choosing trees for Saikei there are essentially 5 elements, these are:

- Resembles a full sized tree.
- Small and tight growing foliage.
- Tight rooting.
- Able to grow in a pot.
- Able to withstand temperature increases and decreases.

The tree above has been chosen because it has an upright form with a single strong trunk to reflect the shape of a fully mature tree, it has very small and compact foliage which means that the scale will be good when planted. We also know from using other Cryptomeria that it will form a good root structure and is tolerant of sudden changes in heat and conditions. This is also a small growing variety which means the planting changes little and is long lived but obviously during the initial development period it will take longer to reach a good tree form, say 3-5 years.

Species for Saikei

There are a number of species that meet the above criteria but I have listed those species suitable for the beginner to intermediate Saikei enthusiast in temperate climates, this is not an exhaustive list but provides a starting point.

Conifer	Broadleaf
Cryptomeria	**Cotoneaster**
Juniper	**Zelkova**
Chamaecyparis	**Chinese elm**
Spruce	**Azalea**

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Cryptomeria

Scientific Classification	
Family	Cupressaceae
Sub Family	Taxodioideae
Genus	Cryptomeria
Species	C.japonica
Bionomical Name	

Cryptomeria is a monotypic genus of conifer in the cypress family Cupressaceae formerly belonging to the family Taxodiaceae; it includes only one species, *Cryptomeria japonica* (syn.: *Cupressus japonica* L.f.). It is endemic to Japan, where it is known as Sugi (Japanese: 杉). the tree is often called Japanese Cedar in English, though the tree is not related to the cedars (*Cedrus*). In Darjeeling district and Sikkim in India, where it is one of the most widely growing trees, *Cryptomeria japonica* is called *Dhuppi* and is favoured for its light wood, extensively used in house building.

Description

It is a very large evergreen tree, reaching up to 70 m (230 ft) tall and 4 m (13 ft) trunk diameter, with red-brown bark which peels in vertical strips. The leaves are arranged spirally, needle-like, 0.5–1 cm (0.20–0.39 in) long; and the seed cones globular, 1–2 cm (0.39–0.79 in) diameter with about 20–40 scales. It is superficially similar to the related Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), from which it can be differentiated by the longer leaves (under 0.5 cm in the Giant Sequoia) and smaller cones (4–6 cm in the Giant Sequoia), and the harder bark on the trunk (thick, soft and spongy in Giant Sequoia).

Sugi (and Hinoki) pollen is a major cause of hay fever in Japan.

Sugi has been so long-cultivated in China that it is thought by some to be native there. Forms selected for ornament and timber production long ago in China have been described as a distinct variety *Cryptomeria japonica* var. *sinensis* (or even a distinct species, *Cryptomeria fortunei*), but they do not differ from the full range of variation found in the wild in Japan, and there is no definite evidence the species ever occurred wild in China.

Symbolism and uses

Sugi is the national tree of Japan, commonly planted around temples and shrines, with many hugely impressive trees planted centuries ago. Sargent (1894; *The Forest Flora of Japan*) recorded the instance of a daimyō (feudal lord) who was too poor to donate a stone lantern at the funeral of the Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543–1616) at Nikkō Tōshō-gū, but requested instead to be allowed to plant an avenue of Sugi, "that future visitors might be protected from the heat of the sun". The offer was accepted; the avenue, which still exists, is over 65 km (40 miles) long, and "has not its equal in stately grandeur".[3]

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It is also extensively used in forestry plantations in Japan, China and the Azores islands, and is widely cultivated as an ornamental tree in other temperate areas, including Britain, Europe, North America and eastern Himalaya regions of Nepal and India.

One very popular ornamental form is the cultivar "Elegans", which is notable for retaining juvenile foliage throughout its life, instead of developing normal adult foliage when one year old (see the picture with different shoots). It makes a small, shrubby 5–10m tall. There are numerous dwarf cultivars that are widely used in rock gardens and for bonsai, including 'tansu', 'koshyi', 'little diamond', 'yokohama' and 'kilmacurragh.'

The wood is scented, reddish-pink in colour, lightweight but strong, waterproof and resistant to decay. It is favoured in Japan for all types of construction work as well as interior panelling, etc.

Cryptomeria is used as a food plant by the larvae of some moths of the genus *Endoclita* including *E. auratus*, *E. punctimargo* and *E. undulifer*.

Propagation

Seeds are planted as soon as they have been gathered in a peat sand mixture under glass. They do not germinate reliably it is better to propagate by different method.

By layering

Choose a low branch; strip the part to be buried of its needles make two or 3 cuts into the branch to encourage rooting. Bury the branch leaving the tip protruding with its needles still on, keep the soil moist, when you see new growth the roots have formed. The best time of year to conduct layering is in spring using a mixture of peat and sand in a growing pot.

By grafting

This is more a method for professionals but can be done in March in a greenhouse if possible.

From nursery stock

Pick a tree with an interesting trunk and a lot of branches.

Care

Put the Cryptomeria in a slightly shaded position as it is not happy in full sun in summer. The Cryptomeria needles turn brown in winter and revert to their green colour in spring, if the tree is protected from the winters cold frosts it can keep its colour year round but it can be affected by late frost in spring, so watch out.

The Cryptomeria needs a humid atmosphere and a change of air but should be shielded from strong winds especially young or recently repotted specimens.

The Cryptomeria grows best in deep cool well-drained soil. Select a simple deep bowl in a neutral brown or willow green in colour and ensure the drainage is good.

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In dry areas the Cryptomeria loses more needles. Pick with the needles off the tree and soil, cut out deadwood and keep the inside of the tree clean to guard against any problems. The old needles will fall after four or five years and this is how the branches are formed.

The Cryptomeria is slow growing and in the growing season puts out a lot of new shoots. Every 3 to 5 years repot in the spring when growth is underway, you should not repot too early in the spring. The soil mix that we suggest is a one part organic matter, one part loam, one part course sand, and one part grit. This will create a cool, rich, deep, well-drained soil.

Cryptomeria japonica 'Yokohama' used in a saikei to great effect

Members News

Membership Benefits

We will continue to develop the benefits of membership and welcome suggestions. The present benefits are as follows:

- Saikei networking opportunity
- Development guidance
- Regular electronic newsletter
- Style Sheets
- Learning Support
- Library References List
- Discounts with selected Traders

Membership allows you draw on a library of learning resources for Saikei and the opportunity to study towards one of the many certificates in Saikei. You will also receive a dedicated monthly newsletter that focuses entirely on Saikei.

To learn more about these benefits please contact the membership team:

membership@saikei.co.uk

How to Pay your Membership Fees

Please send your cheque to Brian Dale or contact him to get a standing order form to pay annually directly from your bank.

We have also arranged a online payment scheme with PayPal and details of this can be obtained by contacting the vice president membership on the email below.

brian.dale@saikei.co.uk

Members News cont...

Show Help

If you are able to help at any of the shows please make contact with the show secretary who will be delighted to take your name ready for production of the rotas. On both shows we will require people to help set up and also to break down at the end of the day as well as people to man and act as promoters for the Association.

These promise to be very good events with plenty of trees and traders all displayed for your enjoyment, there may be an opportunity to get hold of a pot or tools that you might need. There will also be the opportunity to meet and discuss Saikei with members of the board, if you have a Saikei that you wish to discuss or get ideas on please bring it along and there will be individuals able to discuss and help with any Saikei problems.

Please remember that at each show we hold a best in show Saikei so if you have a Saikei but you wish to display please contact the show coordinator with details of which show you wish to display and the size of your composition.

events@saikei.co.uk

Feedback Please

Following last months plea we are again asking members to provide some feedback.

1. We are currently seeking some ideas for workshop venues and would be interested to hear from any members.
2. Please can you let us know if you have any ideas for improvements to the services that are currently provided to members.
3. The current learning resources are being reviewed and we would be interested to hear if there are any subjects which members would like to learn more about.

newsletter@saikei.co.uk

International News

Australia

Craig Jurd in Australia has sent us this picture of a demonstration he did for a local garden club:

“Here is a photo of a Saikei setting which I created on the 8th march 2011 , at a local garden club . This setting will be donated to the end of year raffle .

The plants used are Kyoto Serissa , with white quartz rock . Kyoto serissa is great for saikei as they have small leaves , white flowers and grow very fast , easy to propagate “.

We will let the picture speak for themselves. Thank you for sending them to us Craig.

Let us know your Countries Saikei and Bonsai news

We are asking all members to keep us informed of events and news in their countries. We want your events to be successful so please let us know and we will also put them on the website.

Please send all submissions to the editor at newsletter@saikei.co.uk

Views from a Lens

send your photos to newsletter@saikei.co.uk

Sensei Kawamoto Special

Name: Peaceful Lake

Created: 1960's

Keeper: Toshio Kawamoto

Name: Matsushima

Created: 1960's

Keeper: Toshio Kawamoto

Name: Wooded Gorge

Created: 1960's

Keeper: Toshio Kawamoto

Name: Unknown

Created: 1960's

Keeper: Toshio Kawamoto

Photos can be of Saikei, other tray landscape arts or inspirational landscapes.

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

Dai Ichi Bonsai Group (Essex)

Meets at Shenfield Village Hall, 1st Monday of each month call 01277 625 298

Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club (Sussex)

Meets Hellingly Village Hall, 2nd Monday of the Month, call 01323 731 369

Eastleigh Bonsai Club (Hampshire)

Meets 2nd Monday of the Month, call 01489 789 962 or 07795 187 632

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