Landscape Views

The newsletter of the International Saikei Association 栽景

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International Saikei Association

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Quick News and Board Activity

General News

Editor

We are continuing to have interest from the new website and tracking all enquiries. We had a poor response from the Eastbourne show and we have been looking at the set up to see if we can improve for forthcoming shows.

We have created a new A5 handout which will be available at the stand on Bonsai World 2011.

There will be a show offer in place on membership for Bonsai World 2011.

Website

Editor

We are reviewing the website currently and would like to hear from members about what sort of content you would like to see on the website.

There has been a suggestion that we include some learning elements within it but we would like toi hear if you would like to see this before we put this in place.

If you have any articles or events you wish to advertise you can simply send them into us and we will add them to our events page and advertise them in the magazine.

newsletter@saikei.co.uk

Learning Opportunities News

Learning Coordinator

There are now 3 individuals studying for the Certificate Level 2 and 2 on the Diploma Level so we will shortly be awarding fellowship to the association if all goes well.

learning@saikei.co.uk

Events and Shows

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.

Events and Shows 2012

Eastbourne Bonsai & Saikei Show 2012

Events Coordinator

Watch this Space

Eastleigh Bonsai Show 2012

Events Coordinator

Watch this Space

Back to Basics - Accents And Their Use In Saikei

Introduction

This is a subject which has caused much discussion in Saikei circles, the most common topic is whether you need to use an accent with Saikei as the landscape is already defined by the composition. My own opinion is that as long as the accent plant doesn't detract from the composition is perfectly reasonable to use them to highlight the landscape.

In this article I intend to outline my own criteria the selecting and using Accent plants with my Saikei compositions.

Size

The size of an accent planting is very important to ensure that it only enhances the display and doesn't become the focal point. It is not possible to give a mathematical equation which equals the perfect Saikei and accent display, but when I'm judging Saikei displays I stand back and judge the level of importance given to each element and if the accent has become an equal or more important element in the selection in my opinion has failed. One of the most useful things I have read on the subject of Saikei and accent plants was by Toshio Kawamoto who stated that an accent should never be larger than the largest element in the Saikei be that a stone or tree. I have searched for some time to try to discover where I read this article a number of times but unfortunately have failed to find the publication, it is one of the phrases which my brain seems to hang onto and I always use it when selecting accents for my Saikei displays.

Type

It is fair to say that accents can be almost anything which enhances the display, it could be an Alpine plants in a small ceramic container, it might be a Suiseki, a small figurine of an animal or even a piece of fruit that represents the season. Again it is important that whatever type of accent we use it should only ever enhance the display. I personally have a tendency to use accent plants with my displays and select these in relation to the composition of Saikei, for instance, with Gorge style Saikei I would probably use a small fern as I have often seen these growing on cliff faces in gorges, for an Alpine Plateau I might use a heather or other low growing Alpine plant to reflect the exposed nature of that composition.

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Pot

The pot or Suiban in which the accent is displayed is important because of the effect that it can have on the overall display. The part should never be the same colour as the one that the Saikei is displayed in, if the Saikei is displayed in a neutral Brown and the accent plant should be displayed in a glazed pot. The shape and look of the pot must also be considered in relation to the type of Saikei composition with which it is going to be displayed if for instance the Saikei is rugged in nature then this should be reflected in the accent by choosing a primitive pot.

Summary

I hope this has helped you to select suitable accents to be displayed with your Saikei and I would welcome any feedback you wish to give. I would however point out that these are my opinions and may not necessarily be shared by everybody.

In the Workshop

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.

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Stabilisation Methods

Because we may 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.

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:

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- 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.

Competition

There is still an opportunity to enter the 1st Annual ISA Saikei Photograph Competition.

Closing Date Friday 2nd of September 2011 at 17.00 GMT.

Simply send in your photograph of your Saikei on an email so that we can print and display it at the Bonsai World Show 2011.

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 or access 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

No News is Bad News

We have not been given any international news .

Captions please our president deserves it ☺ !!!!!

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

Nature Special

Name: Lonely Tree

Created: Unknown

Keeper: Nature

Name: Gorge

Created: Unknown

Keeper: Nature

Name: Waterfall

Created: Unknown

Keeper: Nature

Name: Secret Gorge

Created: 2007

Keeper: Bruce Scrivens

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

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	
Eastleigh Bonsai Club (Hampshire)	01489 789 962 or 07795 187 632		2nd Monday of the Month	

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	brian.dale@saikei.co.uk
Bruce Scrivens FISA (HON)	**Vice President Finance**		bruce.scrivens@saikei.co.uk

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