Saikei International

The Magazine of the International Saikei Association

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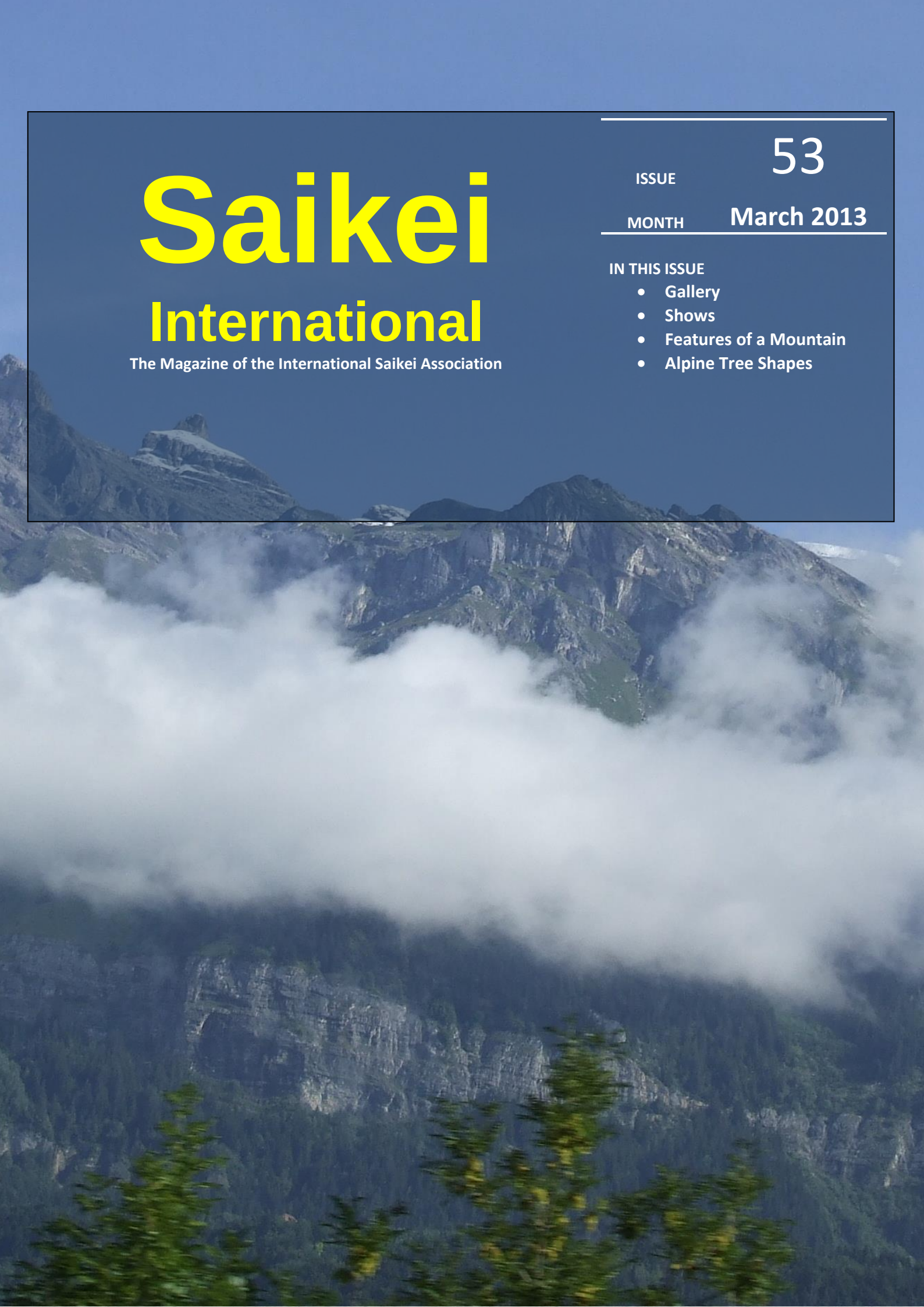

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General News

It is worth noting that we will be attending the Eastbourne and Wealden Bonsai Club Show on the 22nd of June 2013. Our President will be doing a demonstration of Saikei or Bonsai in the afternoon, he will also be conducting a workshop on Bonsai and Saikei in the morning.

Saikei In Belgium

We are delighted to be able to announce the appointment of Patrick Houbrechts as regional director for Belgium. Patrick is an active member of his local bonsai group and a working member of the Flemish Bonsai Association.

We understand from conversations between Patrick and our President that Saikei is comparatively young in Belgium, with individuals having to buy books from America in order to understand the composition and techniques of Saikei, as there is no local literature available. Patrick is going to create and develop Saikei in the hope of encouraging others in Belgium to follow his example. We wish him well in his endeavours and offer our support.

Learning Opportunities

The learning opportunities group has been reformed following some issues relating to some of the members of the original group. These were personal life issues that prevented these individuals from taking a further role in the development of the learning opportunities program, we wish them well and hope that they might be able to take an active role in the Association at a later date. We would also like to thank them for the work that they have provided so far.

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WEBSITE

International Pages - we would like to start to build on the international pages within the current website structure so if you are aware of local groups either bonsai or Saikei we would like to list them on the pages and include links to their websites so that we might provide more information to visitors to the sites. If you are aware of any local shows we will also like to hear about these so they can be listed on the showpage and international pages.

SHOWS

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 2013

Stone Cross Hall, Stone Cross, Eastbourne.
22nd of June 2013
Bonsai, Saikei, Demonstrations, Pot Making, Bonsai Related Items for Sale, etc…

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BACK TO BASICS - ALPINE TREE SHAPES

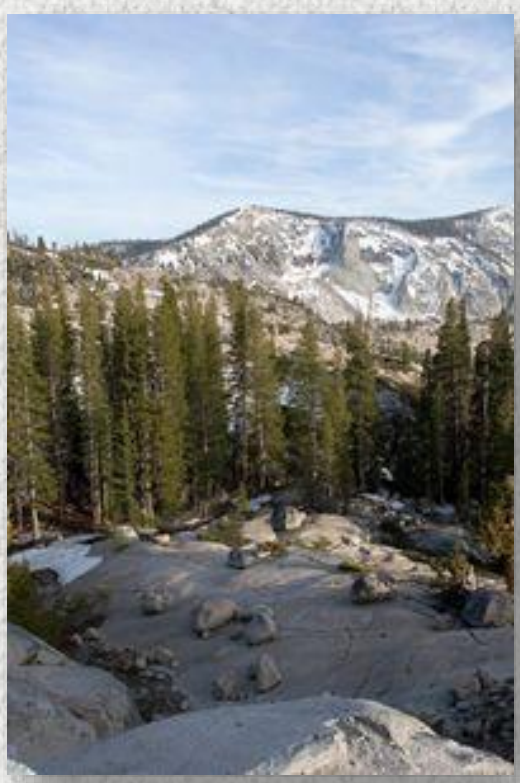
During a recent gathering of Saikei enthusiasts which I was lucky enough to attend a subject came up regarding the correct shape of a tree within an Alpine style Saikei.

The individual leading this gathering explained that whilst it would be great to provide us with a simple style sheet that outlined an Alpine tree style this was not possible as it rather depended on where about on the mountain the tree was actually growing. He then continued to explain that in order for us to truly understand the style of a mountain tree it will be best to study these, we then joked about organising a trip to the Alps to view these trees perversely decided it would probably be easier and cheaper to look up images on the Internet. We then used a tablet computer to view images of Alpine trees and we discussed the various features.

I have listed the features below which in our opinion symbolised an Alpine tree:

UPRIGHT

- Trunk - it was interesting to see that many Alpine trees grow in a very upright posture particularly those growing below the tree line. The most interesting feature of these trees was the straight yet quite thin trunks, this we put down to the harsh conditions making rapid growth nearly impossible.
- Branches - we noticed that on these tall upright trees the branches were noticeably small with very dense foliage and long spaces between branches. Again we discussed the possible reasons for this and again we put this down to the harsh climate that the tree is exposed to.



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WIND BLOWN

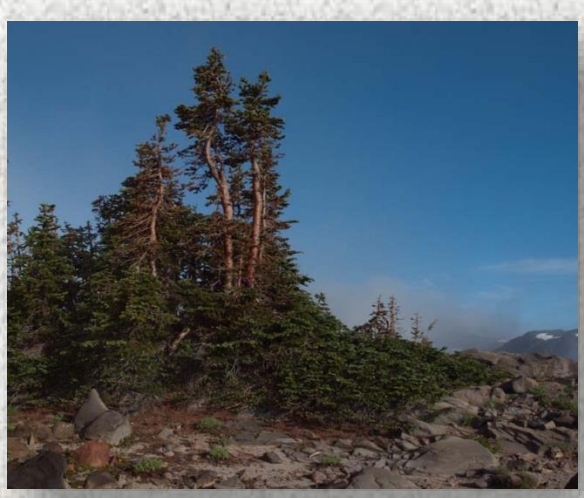
- We also came across some pictures with trees that had been exposed to severe wind, in these cases the trunks would often lean away from the wind and often the branches on the leeward side would extend as they were blown by the wind and partially protected by the trunk.

Unfortunately we ran out of time before we have the chance to actually start any Alpine trees. However I made a request that the next gathering we would have a chance to explore this further and maybe even style some trees within some of our compositions.

I have since managed to obtain some images of Alpine trees but I hope will help you to understand slightly more about this particular style.

Note to editor: would it be possible to perhaps have a more detailed style article done on the Alpine tree.

Note to author: I will ask our President and see if he will be willing to write something for a future issue. Thank you for your suggestion.



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In the Classroom - Mountain Features (from mountain professor.com)

Mountain features are the individual things that make up a complete mountain environment. Although usually referred to as a single unit, a mountain is actually made up of many, many unique features, each with its own characteristics and definitions, much like the individual walls, windows, doors, etc., make up the whole unit of a house.

These mountain features range in size from relatively small to huge walls thousands of feet high! Below is a list of most of these features.

Ridge

A ridge is a long chain of mountains that have a crest close to the same height and not broken-up by deep passes or cols. Usually they run for some distance, even for many miles, and are sometimes referred to as a single mountain.

But ridges also refer to the crests that radiate out and down from a mountain peak (i.e. a summit ridge), usually in three different directions, and continue down into a pass, valley, or high plateau as in Tibet. This type of ridge is most prevalent in folded mountains.

Horn

A horn, also called an aiguille or pyramidal peak, is a sharp, steep-sided mountain peak that has been chiselled out by the action of glacial ice and the freeze/thaw process.

A very famous example of a peak like this is the Matterhorn, on the border between Switzerland and Italy.

Arête

An arête is a very sharp steep-sided ridge formed when glaciers on the adjacent sides of a ridge grind away at it until it is sharpened down to an almost knife like edge.

A great example of a large arête is the Garden Wall in Glacier National Park, Montana.

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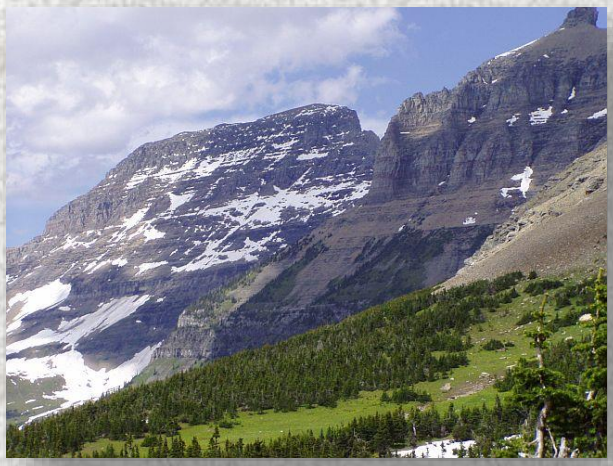

ERRATIC'S

Erratic's are rocks that are carried from one area and deposited in another by hitching a ride on or in a glacier. These rocks range in size from small pebbles to very large boulders. When a glacier retreats the rocks are then left behind, sometimes miles from the present day glacier, or in the case of ice age glaciers, they can be thousands of miles from any glacier.

Erratic's end up in glaciers by many different means. The large ones are often broken from the bedrock by the movement of the glacier in a process known as "plucking". The smaller ones are often produced by an abrasion process.

This is caused by the glacier's constant movement over the bedrock, polishing and scouring off little pieces. Both large and small erratic's can also fall onto the ice during a rock avalanche on a slope above the glacier. A famous large erratic is Big Rock located in Alberta, Canada. It is about 30 feet high and weighs approximately 16,500 tons!

MORAINE

A moraine is an accumulation of rocks and dirt ground up and piled up by glacial action.

There are three basic types of moraines: lateral, medial, and terminal. A lateral moraine is a pile of glacial debris deposited in parallel ridges on the sides of a glacier. When a glacier retreats the ridges left behind are often many hundreds of feet high.

A medial moraine is a moraine that runs down the center of a large glacier. It is formed when two smaller glaciers meet and the glacial debris or lateral moraines on the meeting sides of the glaciers combine, and are then carried on top of the enlarged glacier down the mountain.

The third main type of moraine is the terminal or end moraine. This is the pile of glacial debris that is pushed out in front of a glacier, like a giant bulldozer, by the end or "snout" of the glacier.

Terminal moraines mark the farthest extent of a glacier, and thus can be used to determine the former maximum extent of a retreated or completely melted glacier.

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COULOIR

A couloir is a steep, narrow gully that cuts into the side of a mountain. These are caused by various means of erosion like: mass wasting, lava flows, lahars, avalanche scouring, etc. Couloirs often provide an easier access to a summit or summit ridge.

CIRQUE

A cirque is a bowl shaped depression carved out, in the bedrock, at the head of an alpine glacier. It is not completely visible until the glacier retreats to a new area above the cirque. When this happens the remaining depression often fills with water, from glacial runoff, snowmelt, and rain, and becomes an alpine lake.

Cirques begin in protected areas on a mountain slope where snow can accumulate more than it melts. Freeze/thaw conditions under the snow start to hollow out larger and larger holes in the slope.

Eventually this process forms a large bowl shape. As the snow continues to accumulate it becomes packed into glacial ice and begins to flow out of the bowl and down the mountain using the freeze/thaw debris to further gouge out the hole through the glacial process of abrasion.

When the ice flows out over the lip of the bowl, it cracks, forming a large crevasse known as a bergshrund, which separates the ice in the cirque from the rest of the glacier downslope.

MOUNTAIN PASS

A mountain pass (also called a gap, saddle, or col) is a passage over a mountain range. They typically occur in valleys between mountain ridges, in low points along mountain watersheds or just the lowest point on a mountain ridge between two peaks.

They can be relatively short in length (the width of a ridge) or they can be valleys many miles long. Mountain passes are often the location where roads and railways are built to get through the mountains.

Many of them have become famous throughout history for their importance in trade and commerce. Some of the most well known are Donner in California (7,056 feet 2,151 m), Brenner between Italy and Austria (4,495 feet 1,370 m), Khyber between Pakistan and Afghanistan (3,510 feet 1,070 m), and Thorung La in Nepal, one of the highest in the world, at 17,769 feet (5,416 m).

HEADWALL

A headwall is the high cliff above a glacial cirque. It is carved out by glacial activity and is exposed as the ice gouges deeper into the rock, and slips downslope, or when it melts away

Editor's Note:

We thought this might serve as interest to those of you who seek to create realistic landscapes.

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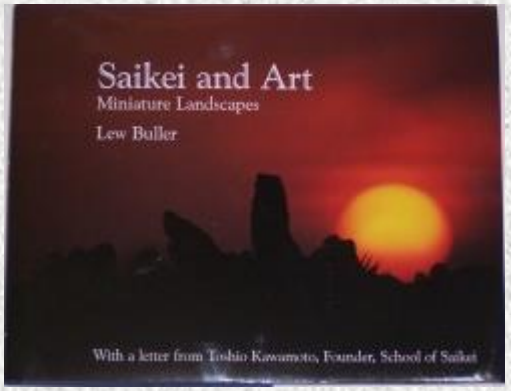
BOOKS ON SAIKEI

Paul Eslinger

SAIKEI AND ART, MINIATURE LANDSCAPES



Author - Lew Butler

Publisher - Lew Butler

ISBN - 0-9772443-0-X

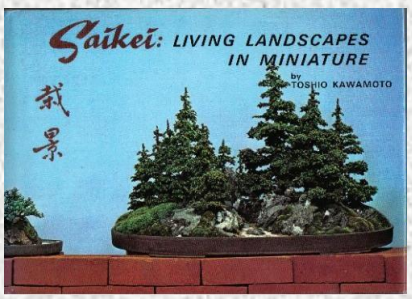
Library of Congress Catalog Control Number - 2005907221

The development of Saikei within the context of an individual's national comprehension is well illustrated in this book. It is a well presented modern journey of discovery that takes the Asian syntax of our art and translates it into a western US context.

While some of the Saikei illustrated are very twee, the development of principles and the horticultural information is first class. The identification of plant material shared ads to the pool of knowledge available to the Saikei student.

This is a useful addition, if not a priority, to add to your bookshelf.

SAIKEI: LIVING LANDSCAPES IN MINIATURE



Author - Toshio Kawamoto

Publisher - Kodansha International Ltd

ISBN - 0-87011-048-9

Library of Congress Catalog Control Number - 67-26311

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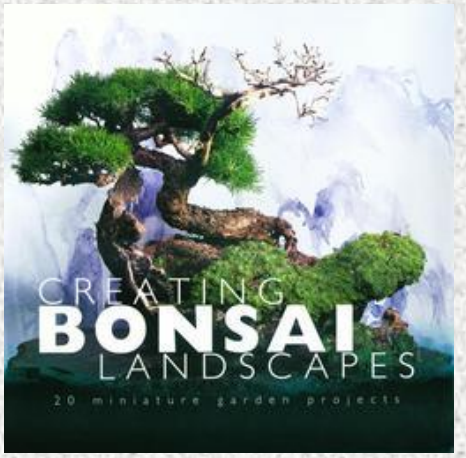
This is the definitive English definition of Saikei written by Toshio Kawamoto as a framework for the development of what was then an emerging art form. While the presentation may be of the '60s, the artistic and technical content still stands at the forefront of our art.

A huge amount of information well-presented and structured to inform the student of Saikei as they develop their understanding. It develops the students understanding of the elements of composition and the balance necessary to create and maintain Saikei of substance.

This book belongs on the bookshelf of every student of Saikei.

CREATING BONSAI LANDSCAPES, 18 MINIATURE GARDEN PROJECTS



Author - Su Chin Ee

Publisher - Storey Publishing

ISBN - 1-58017-484-1

Library of Congress Catalog Control Number -

With a strong Chinese influence the 18 projects outlined here are very much in the penjing and as such will enrich the student of Saikei's portfolio. The projects show a range of animal and spiritual themes derived from the traditions and mythology of China but with just a hint of occidental pragmatism.

The approaches to creating containers, the use of material and the aesthetics will add to the richness of your roach to Saikei. The balance of this book is focused on the practical creation of penjing and as such gives practical guidance to the student of Saikei as they experiment with technique and develop their own pallet.

This is a useful addition, although not at the top of the list, to add to your bookshelf

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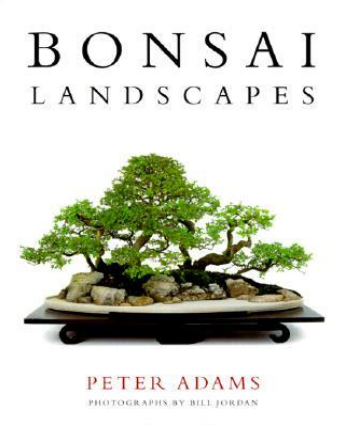
BONSAI LANDSCAPES



Author - Peter Adams

Publisher - Ward Lock

ISBN - 0-7063-7767-2

Library of Congress Catalog Control Number - 94-13707

With an eye to the artistic, this book takes a literal interpretation of landscape as its principal. The designs and ethos outlined are very European in their perspective and only pay peripheral respect to the Asian traditions. The outline of the artistic approach is excellent and while some of the elements are closer to what we would know as kusamono today.

The development and outline of the artistic analysis is of the highest standard but has only a limited value to a student of Saikei. The drawings and planned development as well as care analysis are of the highest standard and very useful to all of us and will translate well into Saikei.

This is a useful addition, but would be a little way down the list before you add it to your bookshelf.

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VIEWS FROM A LENS—GALLERY

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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.eandwbonsaiclub.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

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