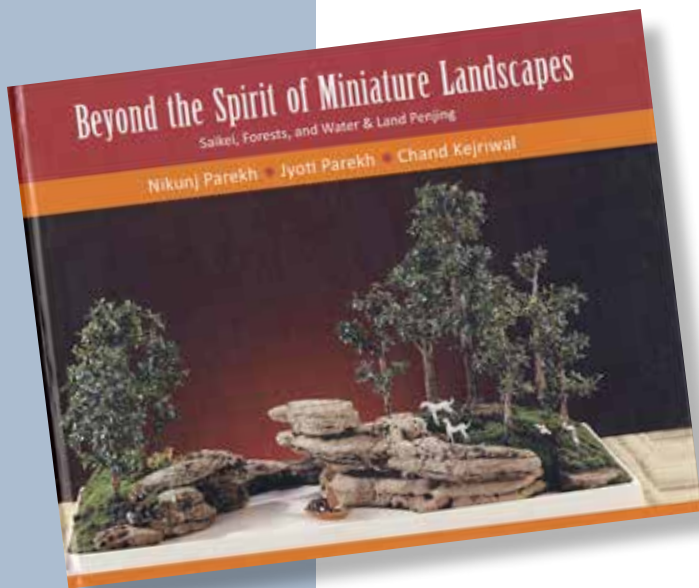


# Sharing Knowledge, Spreading Joy

## Beyond the Spirit of Miniature Landscapes Saikei, Forest and Water & Land Penjing

By Glenis Bebb, Australia



**N**ikunj and Jyoti Parekh founded The Indo Japanese Association Study Group of the Indo Japanese Association in 1979. They are coauthors of *Wonderworld of Bonsai and Saikei* and have demonstrated at international events in Australia, USA, UK, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, China, Taiwan, Sri Lanka and Kenya.

They won silver and bronze medals for the mini garden pavilion they created at the Greenery and Garden Expo in 1990 in Osaka, Japan. They have been publishing a quarterly bonsai magazine, *Nichin Bonsai* since 1985.

Nikunj is the India Region Director of World Bonsai Friendship Federation and is a founding member. He has been a member of the BCI board since 2000 and is now serving as second Vice President. Nikunj was awarded the Order of The Rising Sun with Gold and Silver rays by the government of Japan for promoting Japanese culture in India.

Jyoti, as well as her expertise in bonsai, is a celebrated vegetarian cooking teacher, who has taught fruit and vegetable carving in addition to cooking since 1969. She has held cooking demonstrations in Japan, USA, Canada, UK Kenya and Hong Kong. She has authored 13 books on vegetarian cooking, the art of vegetable carving and gift wrapping.

Chand Kejriwal has been a member of the Bonsai Study Group of the Indo-Japanese Association for two decades and has a fond interest in group plantings.

As well as her love of bonsai, Chand has been teaching Ikebana for 24 years. Chand received a Masters in Ikebana from the Ohara School of Japan.

### BEYOND THE SPRIT OF MINIATURE LANDSCAPES: Saikei, Forest and Water & Land Penjing

By Nikunj Parekh, Jyoti Parekh  
and Chand Kejriwal  
80 pages. English.  
\$13.95

Bottom; Titled *Journey of a River*, this unique Saikei is actually three trays that can be displayed individually. When displayed together they create a river's journey from a waterfall to the sea shore.



*Top;* Where there is limited opportunity for large bonsai in city homes, Saikei, such as this *Bougainvillea glabra*, gives an almost instant result because it incorporates affordable, small nursery-grown plants.

*Middle;* Stones and rocks play an important part in the art of Saikei and can help beautify a scene as in this Saikei of *Serissa foetida*, *Serissa serissoides* and *Serissa foetida mini*.

*Bottom;* The authors offer detailed explanation of how to create a root connected style like this *Ficus jaquinifolia*.

Not many books have been written on Saikei. The pioneer of this art form was Tokichi Kawamoto from Japan. His book is now a collector's item. His son Toshio Kawamoto, author of *Saikei: Living Landscapes in Miniature* continued his father's work supported by Tom Yamamoto, who both travelled, spreading this form of bonsai. These, along with Qing Quan Zhao from China have been the main influence to the authors. I personally have had a passion for Saikei since visiting Kawamoto's roof top studio in the mid eighties.

In the *Beyond the Spirit of Miniature Landscapes* the authors cover the principle of creating Saikei landscapes and group plantings.

The group planting section covers placement of trees and stones with detailed series of photos using sticks to explain the tree placement. They also have a section on raft style with photo examples and detailed diagrams. Another chapter include root connected style.

They also give detailed explanation on the placement of stones and photos explaining stone and gravel placement to achieve different scenes such as river view, gorge and ponds.

The chapter on Water and Land Penjing gives details on plant and stone selection and step-by-step photographs of how to create the arrangement. They also cover selecting plant material, stone selection—covering different types of stones—placement of trees and stones in the tray and container selection.

Other chapter cover the Care of Group Planting, Maintaining Forest Bonsai and Saikei, Container and Accessories.

There is a philosophical aspect to the book which reflects the authors passion.

The author's goal is "to share knowledge, expand the world of bonsai growers and spread joy through the art of making miniature tray landscapes."

The book is a hard cover, has 80 glossy pages with clear photos, 24 cm x 19 cm and at \$13.95 recommended retail price, I think it is good value. 🌳

