

Pittsburgh Bonsai Society: 2022 Spring Show display suggestions



Traditional bonsai displays

Bonsai are typically displayed on stands. There are a lot of different types of stands and slabs. Stands can be hand-made or mass marketed, but they need to be part of a purposeful display and should harmonize with the tree.

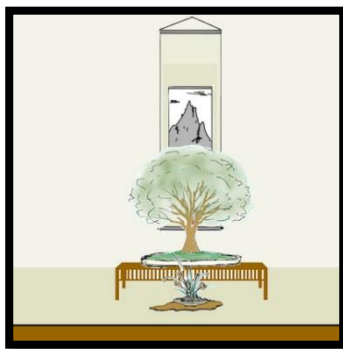
Traditional bonsai shows in Japan (like the Kokufu-ten) tend to exhibit larger trees, ie. those larger than 18", as part of a two point display. Two points refers to the tree (one point –the focal point) and an accent plant (second/complimentary point). The accent plant typically adds context to the display –for example a sunflower-like accent plant could connote summer while a holly-like accent plant could suggest a wintry scene.

Medium and smaller trees are commonly exhibited as part of a three point display. Three points refers to the main tree (one point –the focal point), a complimentary tree (second point), and an accent plant (third point). The three points traditionally signify heaven, man, and earth. Often, three point displays are accomplished by exhibiting a bonsai with a scroll or a viewing stone in lieu of a second complimentary tree. Very small trees (usually trees that are smaller than 10") are frequently exhibited as part of a six or seven point display on a multi-level stand.



Depth is also an important part of how the elements are arranged. If one were to draw line segments between the three display elements, a line that runs perfectly parallel or perpendicular to the table top when connecting the line segments would be less desirable than one that didn't.

Less evocative -Perpendicular line to the table top*: More evocative*:



*Renderings courtesy of Andy Rutledge, http://www.artofbonsai.org/feature_articles/display101.php

**Kokufu-ten display photographs courtesy of Jonas Dupuich, <https://bonsaitonight.com/2020/02/21/prize-winning-trees-from-the-94th-kokufu-bonsai-exhibition/>

All entries should include: owner's name, species of tree, years in training, relevant details about the pot (for example, production pot vs. Randy Doughty pot).