

FOREST PLANTINGS – by Jonathan Cain

A forest in a cheap and quick way of using substandard bonsai to compose something that looks good quickly and cheaply.

A well composed forest should give the viewer a sense of wanting to go into the forest.

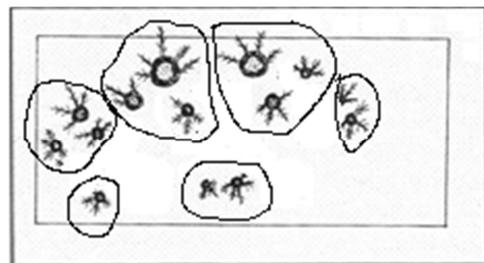
POT

Pot should be shallow and flat. The size of the pot can also determine the size of the forest. One can prop up sides with stone which forms a Landscape or "*saikei*"



SIZE

A group is usually defined as a small group, usually 5 to 11. A forest is defined as more than 11 trees placed in clumps. It is usually an odd number. The quantity of trees used is less important than the overall composition.



GROUPS

Trees are placed in groups of ONE, TWO or THREE. A group of FIVE trees will be two smaller groups of TWO and THREE.

FOCAL POINT

One's eye will always be drawn to the focal point and is usually the largest – tallest and thickest tree. In a near view forest the largest trees are placed in the front.

A distant view forest, emphasises the silhouette rather than individual trees. It also emphasises a young forest.



HARMONY

From the focal point, the rest of the forest should blend in. The overall silhouette should be in the form of a triangle.

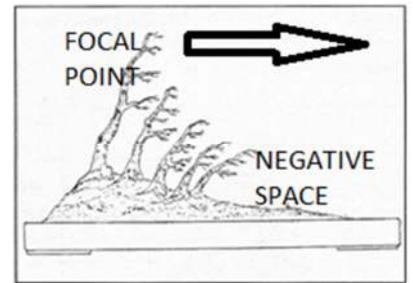
Choose trees with the same characteristics.

MOVEMENT and DIRECTION.

The trunks should all flow in the same direction or away from the focal point. This will draw ones eye into the forest.

If the focal point is to one side the all trunks should flow away from the focal point.

The ground should also undulate.



NEGATIVE SPACE.



The largest tree should be at the furthest point from negative space. Usually requires a larger pot.

STYLES, Formal, Informal, Slanting, Windswept, Bushveld, Flame,

MATERIAL

Generally should have a small leaf or needle. Juniper, olive, buddleja, cypress, maple, elm, stinkwood, privet.