

GENERAL TREE ANATOMY

drawing by William Trost Richards, 19th century, American painter
All of these notations apply to bonsai as well

APEX: top of the CROWN

CROWN: large mass of foliage and branches

DRIP LINE: boundary of dripping rain water from crown. Roots often extend far beyond this perimeter depending on species.

LEADER: the continuation of main trunk

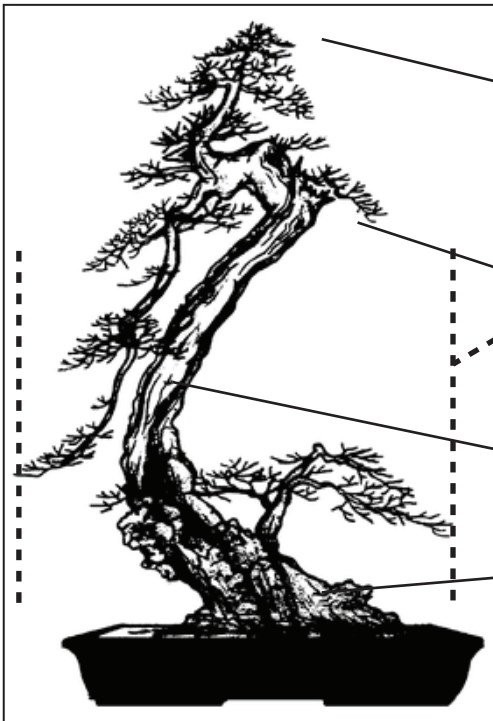
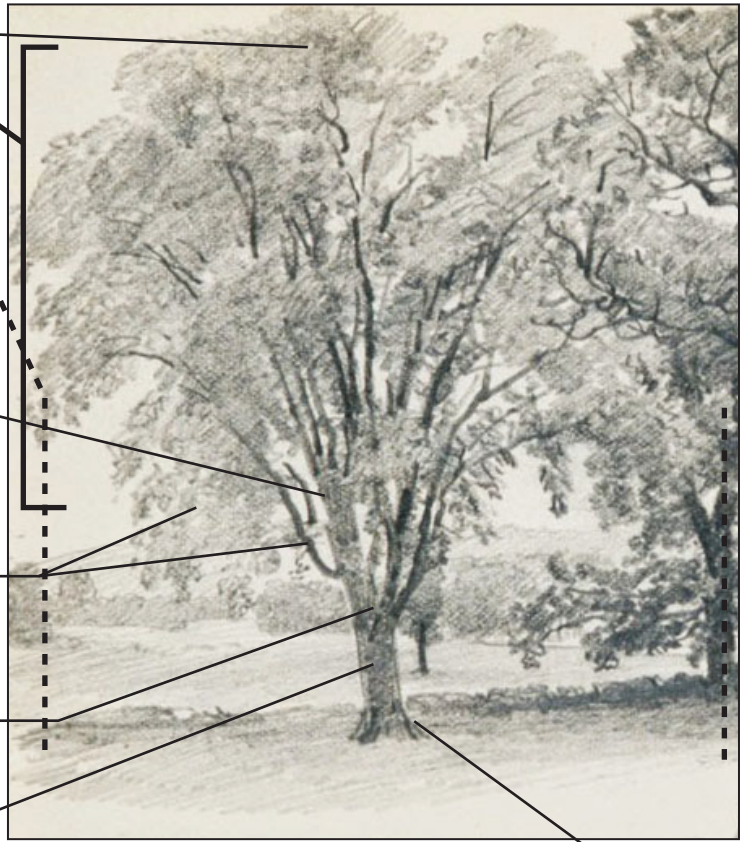
LATERAL BRANCHES to SPRAY, progressively smaller branches note the arrangement and alignment is unique to species

CROTCH: branching off area, angle provides strength to the tree

BOLE: straight portion of trunk

BASE with SHALLOW LATERAL ROOTS often exposed with protective bark or indicated just below surface by soil swell.

Note that TAP ROOT extends directly below BOLE anchoring the tree in the soil. Roots like branches/twigs of crown get progressively smaller with branching RADICLES to FINE HAIRS.



BONSAI ANATOMY

drawing by John Naka, 20th century, American bonsai master

TEN: Apex

SPREAD: defined by the base of the overall CROWN shape.

ICHINOEDA: first branch

TACHIGARI: lowest part of the trunk without branches, similar to the BOLE

NEBARI: root flare at the base of the tree

CONTAINER: chosen with care and consideration of overall tree character.
Note all bonsai have a front and back.