

## Forms of Shimpaku Juniper Bonsai

- Formal upright (Chokkan): A straight, upright tapered trunk with branches arranged symmetrically balanced and layered regular pattern. The foliage pads should be evenly spaced and arranged in a triangular shape, with the apex of the triangle pointing upwards,



- Informal Upright Style (Moyogi): A more natural, slightly curved trunk with branches that create a sense of movement. The overall shape of the tree should still be balanced, but with a more relaxed and organic feel.



- Slanting style (Shakan): This style emphasizes movement and dynamism. This gives the impression of a tree buffeted by the wind.



- Cascade style (Kengai): The trunk grows downward, often over the edge of the pot and below the bottom of the pot.



- Semi-cascade (Han Kengai): Like a Cascade, but the trunk only descends partially below the Pot's rim.



- Literati (Bunjin): This style emphasizes the trunk and its movement, often with sparse foliage and a strong sense of age.



- Windswept (Fukinagashi): This style is dynamic and dramatic, an extreme version of Shakan with the branches (with or without foliage) almost parallel to the ground and foliage clumped on the windward side.



#### Other styling considerations

- Identify the most visually appealing side of the tree to the frontal exposure
  - Consider root base, observed taper and the natural movement of the tree
- Trunk and branch movement can be created by wiring and bending the tree and its branches to enhance the overall design of the tree
- Shape the foliage into distinct pads to create visual interest and depth
- Shimpaku juniper bonsai works well with deadwood features
  - Jin is a peeled branch, a branch stripped of foliage and bark, sometimes with minimal carving
  - Shari is carving of a deadwood area on the trunk
  - These features impart character and age to the tree
- Sacrifice branch(es) can be used to encourage growth in a specific area or to create a natural looking bend in the trunk
  - Sacrifice branches on the lower parts of the trunk can add thickness to the base of the tree and enhance taper
- Branches can be shaped by wrapping wire around the branches and carefully bending them into the desired shape
  - Wrapping the branches with raffia or tape before wiring will help protect the branches, especially when doing aggressive bends
  - Check the wired branches regularly to avoid the bark including (growing over) the wires
  - A round nosed wire cutter is useful when removing the wire from the branches
- Prune regularly to maintain (or alter) shape, remove damaged or unwanted growth and encourage new growth in the desired areas

- Be patient, Bonsai styling is a long-term process, enjoy the journey of shaping your Shimpaku juniper.