



The discussion was heated up as the topic was about the judgment criteria of IAPLC juries.

Side story of ADA Award “question-and-answer session from the party participants”

## Hot discussion! Views of IAPLC judgment standard

02

Topic: About judgment of similar layouts.

**Question:** This year's 2nd place layout closely resembles the IAPLC 2010's grand prize layout. Negatively speaking, it looks like an imitation. I am afraid that we will see more layouts made up by collecting advantages of the former grand prize layouts in the future contests. So, I suggest that the IAPLC Steering Committee would reduce points on such layouts.

Amano: I think that the layout mentioned here made by a Taiwanese contestant is fine. What I mean is that a layout with some changes from 2009's 27th layout by a Taiwanese contestant is the 2010's grand prize work. (by pointing 3 layouts

on the screen), is you see this way, the structure of these 3 layouts are same. If you see all submissions of the IAPLC 2011, there are many layouts with considerable similarities. So, if you find a layout you like, I even encourage to imitate it and further improve it. Everything starts from copying. Even a maestro, Vincent Van Gogh leaned from Ukiyoe, the Japanese woodblock prints. Creating a totally new layout without making any copy is very difficult, and the expression will not expand by having no imitations. Honestly speaking, layouts without any influence of past contests are not so many among all submissions. The IAPLC juries are pro-

fessional, so we keep such condition in our mind when grade each layout. Moreover, when we grade, we look each layout carefully over and over again. We hope you understand that the grading is made as a result of careful consideration.

When we look at these 3 layouts again, we can say that the expression technique has been progressed. As far as I see, this year's work has the highest completion level among them. Please review the submissions of past 10 years. Not all award winning layouts are in original styles. Each award winning layout expresses its originality by modeling a nice layout rather than just copying. That is how the

expression of art continues to evaluate. The same thing can be said to painting. If contestants are not allowed to imitate past IAPLC submissions at all, layout expression would not progress. What would you think? The fact that this layout has been selected as top 5 by the polling of the party participants (see page 28-29) indicates that it has received some evaluation of the viewers.

Now I would like you to think back 11 years ago. When we started this contest 11 years ago, we did not receive submissions as many as we do now. We made certain rules and regulations then, but we did not limit the layout expression as

much as possible. And that is the progress why the circle of this contest has expanded to the world. If we would have set so many limitations of the layout expression, we could not have continued this contest for 11 years.

There are many similar contests in the world, and I participate to some of them as a jury, but I do not know any contest having this many limitations like the IAPLC. I think that the IAPLC has the most limitations among all other similar contests in the world. Planted aquarium is a hobby, and we are not competing at an Olympic game. We are not setting a rule for an Olympic, so can we look at

this matter more generously? And if a layout looks nice, why don't we just give it a positive evaluation? If it is better than the similar one in the previous year, it is not really a copy. I think it is more progressive to praise such layout as it has made a new style by getting an idea from layouts in the previous contests (the audience burst into applause...). All in all, it is not a bad thing to make a layout from copying. I encourage to make it even better. By practicing how to imitate, you can develop your own way of expression.

※Some of the comments are edited to make them more comprehensive.



Jamie Lin / Taiwan  
W120xD60xH55(cm)  
2009 World Ranking -No.27



Pavel Bautin / Russia  
W150xD50xH60(cm)  
2010 World Ranking -No.1



Xue Hai / Taiwan  
W150xD60xH50(cm)  
2011 World Ranking -No.2