

# KOI KEEPERS



Issue 7 - Autumn 2004  
UK: £4.95 - Europe: €7.20 - Japan: 1000 Y



## MOMOTARO

Marvellous  
breeding skills

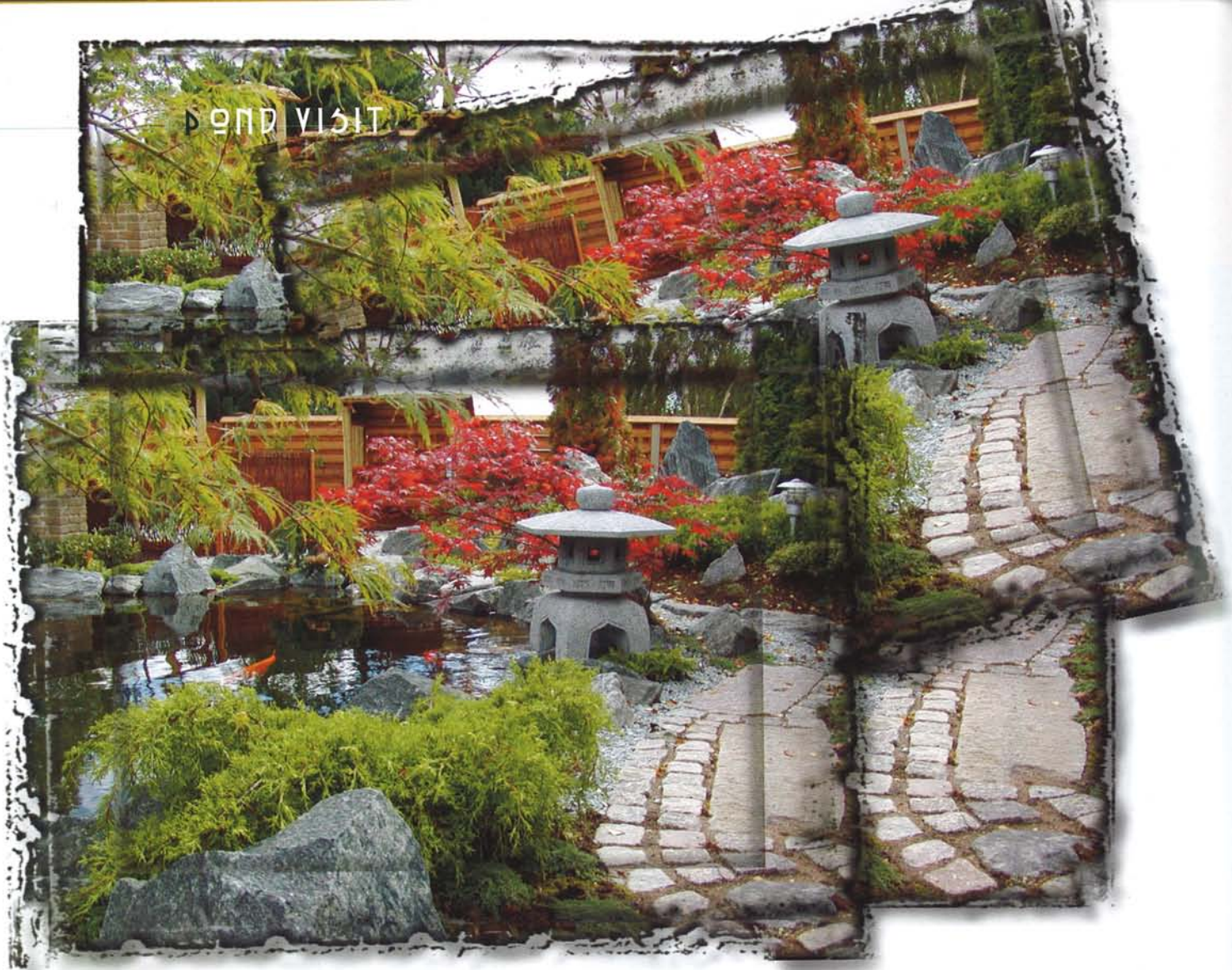
## TATEGOI

Taisho Sanshoku

ARE WE READY...

...to win the  
All Japan 2005?

WORLD'S HOTTEST NISHIKIGOI MAGAZINE



## "EN FANTASTISK DANSK KOIDAM I JAPANSK INSPIREREDE OMGIVELSE"

Laila and Kjell Lange have endured what we can all, probably, sympathise with when it comes to 'getting it right' with your Koi pond. Who builds their dream pond the first time and gets it perfect? Well, if you're full of inspiration and this grows with your love of the hobby, it's no doubt that you will always see something bigger and better. Laila and Kjell are now on their fourth pond – but is this the last time?

It all started in 2001, when we were living in a small chain-house. We wanted to do something different with our garden and decided to

create a small 1,500 litre pond with goldfish, shubunkin, sturgeon and water lilies.

In 2003, our sturgeon grew rather large and we needed to expand our pond. We had seen some rather tame Koi at a dealer's place and we were so taken with them that we bought a book all about Koi. We were very impressed by these beautiful fish with such a friendly personality.

In February 2003, we went on-line and built a 'pond' homepage ([www.hyggedam.dk](http://www.hyggedam.dk), meaning cosy pond) with family pictures and news on the development of the pond.

This was so my wife's sister and brother-in-law, who live close to New York, could see what was going on back in little Denmark. When we started digging our new 4,200 litre pond in April. We updated our pond diary on-line almost every day with garden and pond pictures – and completely forgot to add the family pictures.

When our new 4,200 litre lily pond was finished in late April, we bought five Koi between 13-30cm. A couple of the Koi were tame from the very beginning, and we were soon hooked. We went Koi crazy and before we knew it had 12 Koi. However, this caused problems as it

turned out that the filter capacity was too small so the water was not cleaning itself properly. We made the pond bigger and installed a more efficient filter.

Six weeks after pond two was completed, we started all over again. In June our third pond was 19,000 litres. This time without plants and water lilies because the Koi would just eat them.

When we started digging the 19,000 litres pond we also updated our website and suddenly started receiving a lot of hits every day. Many Danes wanted to read about the processes of our past and

present pond construction. In brief, we sold our little chain-house in December 2003 and bought a larger villa. So, of course, we had to start all over again. We moved on December 15th, and heated the water in our old pond so that we could move the Koi. They were moved to a friend's pond for about five months and his pond was equipped with a heat exchanger, so our Koi had a nice winter in warm water.

We were given a book on Japanese gardens for Christmas and soon realised that this was a dangerous thing to start as we are now inspired to make a Japanese garden. We have

pink azalea, red Acer, thyme, cotula and evergreens near the pond and all over the rest of the garden.

But this time we wanted to make the filter ourselves. It took us about four winter months to design the new back yard on paper with the filter construction and installation. We decided that our new Koi pond should be built close to the house just in front of the windows – and the pond size was bigger again. We started digging our 40,000 litres pond.

Digging our fourth and last pond started on April 1, 2004. Over the last year and a half our website was hit over 110,000 times.



1. The old pond
2. Planning the new pond
3. Digging time
4. The bottom drains go in first
5. A self-made professional filter
6. Filling the pond
7. Ready for action!

## POND VISIT

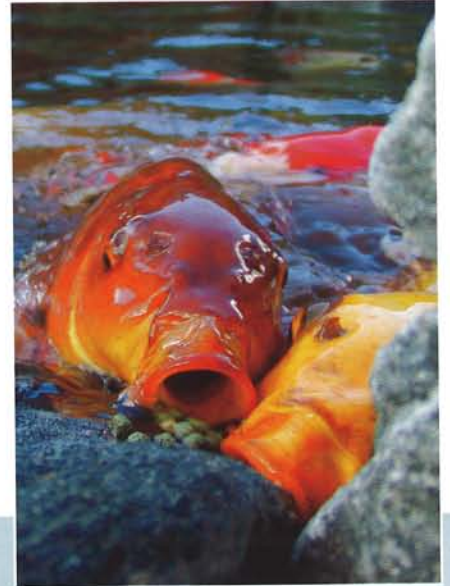
We moved our Koi into the new pond late April and after that we began to create the Japanese surroundings. We have been working in our garden non-stop from April to September and we have nearly completed the first stage.

The size of the pond totals 44,000 litres (5,500 of this is in the filters). It's a relatively big pond for Denmark and we can see that our Koi love the distance from one end to the other which measures eight metres. The water is so crystal-clear that we can see the bottom drains two metres below the surface. Our Koi are healthy and we hope they will stay that way.

We check the water quality very often, as we don't want to lose any of our beautiful Koi. We were doing daily water changes for a long period to keep the ammonia and nitrite levels low. Our homemade filter installation has now been up and running for five months and we are very pleased with its performance. We haven't seen the shadow of blanket weed yet and we think this is due to the floating Kaldnes K1 in our filter.



Super tame Gin Rin Soragoi



Feeding time!

We check our Koi daily and if we see any abnormal behaviour we keep a watchful eye and do a mucus test if necessary. We use professional information given on the Internet to compare what we see in the microscope with what we have to find the right medication. We also have a couple of Koi dealers who give us advice.

Koi keeping is increasing in popularity in Denmark and more and more Danes are eager to have Koi ponds in their gardens. We love our Koi and the garden and look forward to seeing how it

will look in a couple of years when it is more matured.

**Pond Dimensions:** 44,000 litres, approx. 8 x 4 x 2m

**Pond Construction:** EPDM pond liner

**Pond Edge:** 10 tonnes dark grey Swedish granite quarry

**-Filter Dimensions:** 5,500 litres in two parallel systems.

Built with three layers of 40mm composite with foam kernel.

Each system is : 320 x 105 x 100cm

**Filtration:**

Two vortex, one chamber with Black Knight brushes,





A nice selection of different varieties



You probably didn't expect anything like this in Denmark, did you?

one chamber with Kaldnes K1 static, two chambers with Kaldnes K1 moving bed and two chambers filled with Japanese matting

**Bottom drains:** Two. One with Spindrifter air diffuser (the Spindrifter runs evenings/nights because we want the water surface to be calm during the daytime).

**Pumps:** Two 10,000 Aquamax, one x 5,500 Aquamax (skimmer/waterfall)

**SurfaceSkimmer:** One

**Aeration:** Two x Evolution Aqua 40, One x Tornado 3000

**UV:** Two x TMC ProClear 55watt.

**Heating System:** We haven't made it yet, but we will mount a heat exchanger before the autumn sets in.

**Koi:** 23 (from 15cm – 72cm) – and they all have names!

**Pond summary:**

2001: 1,500 litre lily pond

2003: 4,200 litre lily pond (April)

2003: 19,000 litre Koi pond (June)

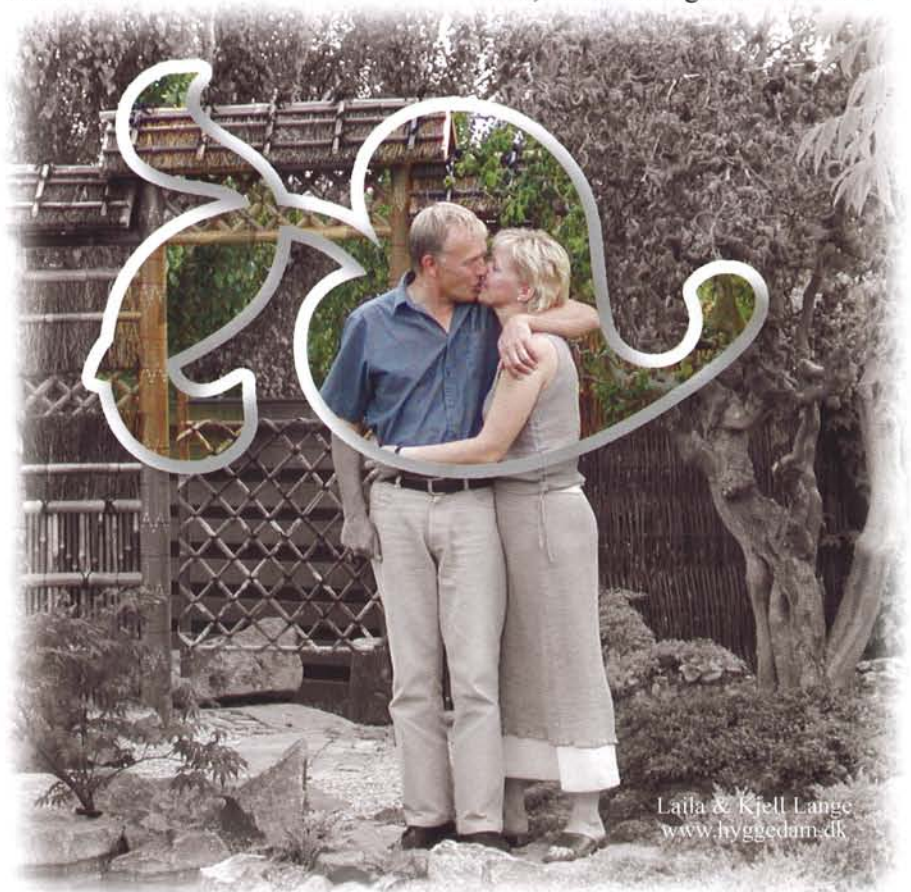
In a new house

2004: 44,000 litre Koi pond (April)

**We have:** 6 Kohaku (15 to 45cm), 3 Sanke (15 to 45cm), 2 Tancho Sanke (15 and 54cm), 1 Tancho Kohaku (40cm), 2 Yamabuki Ogon (45 and 72cm), 1 Hi Utsuri (38cm), 1 Shiro Utsuri (25cm), 1 Aka Kin Matsuba (62cm), 1 Kinsui (44cm), 1 Koromo (42cm), 1 Ochiba Shigure (40cm), 1 Kikusuri (28cm) and 2

Chagoi (40 and 50cm). Our goal is 25 Koi. We would like to buy a jumbo Kohaku before we stop buying fish. But at least we have learned our lesson in that we need a bigger filter with a lot more water to keep the water quality in top condition.

- Quarantine/hospital: 600 litres tank, but it's too small for bigger Koi so in the winter we will build a new quarantine station in our garage of approximately 6,000 litres. Constructed in concrete and fibre glassed and of course, mounted with separate filter, heat exchanger and so on...



Laila & Kjell Lange  
www.lvgedam.dk