

Permaculture Ethics & Principles, The Design Process

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Permaculture Ethics

Care of the Earth (Life ethic)

Care of People (life ethic)

Setting Limits to Population and Consumption, Give Away Surplus, Reduce Consumerism

David Holmgren's Permaculture Principles

1. Observe and Interact: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
2. Catch and Store Energy: Make hay while the sun shines
3. Obtain a Yield: You can't work on an empty stomach
4. Apply Self-Regulation and Accept Feedback: The sins of the fathers are visited on the children unto the seventh generation
5. Use and Value Renewable Resources and Services: Let nature take its course
6. Produce No Waste: A stitch in time saves nine
7. Design from Patterns to Details: Can't see the wood for the trees
8. Integrate Rather than Segregate: Many hands make light work
9. Use Small and Slow Solutions: The bigger they are, the harder they fall. Slow and steady wins the race
10. Use and Value Diversity: Don't put all your eggs in one basket
11. Use Edges and Value the Marginal: Don't think you are on the right track just because it is a well beaten path
12. Creatively Use and Respond to Change: Vision is not seeing things as they are but as they will be

Design Process:

Observation

Deduction from Nature

Analysis

Zone and Sector Analysis

Random Assembly

Maps and Data Overlay

Flow Diagrams

Options and Decisions (management, input/output analysis)

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Constraints

Limiting Factors: steepness of land, solar aspect, risk of flooding/disaster, cold winds and frost pockets

Permaculture Principles (from a variety of sources)

- Turning Problems into Solutions (The problem is the solution)
- Everything is connected to everything else, each element performs many functions
(Stacking/multifunction)
- Every function is supported by many elements
- Relative Location
- Diversity (guilds)
- Accelerating Succession and Evolution – Work with nature, not against
 - Use what is already there
 - Introduce plants that will most likely be compatible (information intensive)
 - Accelerated raise in organic levels (mulch, dynamic accumulators, compost, etc)
 - Substitute own herb, pioneer, or climax species (useful in our lives)
- Energy efficient planning
 - Zone and sector planning
 - Least change for the greatest effect (minimize maintenance and energy inputs to achieve maximum yields- Earthuser's Guide to Permaculture)
 - Perennial and No-Dig systems (efficient energy planning)
 - Use Patterns (Biomimicry)
 - Use biological (plants and animals) and renewable resources
 - Use appropriate technology
 - Maximize use of energy from source to sink
 - Low maintenance systems
 - Design to minimize the effects of limiting factors
- Small-scale intensive systems
 - Timestacking
 - Plant stacking
- Edge effects – interface between two mediums
- Everything is a gift
- Cooperation not competition Attitudinal Principles – people oriented
 - Everything works both ways (can be advantage or disadvantage based on perspective)
 - Permaculture is information and imagination intensive
- Bring food production back to the cities
- Self-regulation, encourage self-reliance
- Mistakes are tools for learning
- The opposite is always true
- No such thing as waste
- The problem is the solution
- The edge is where the action is
- Observe, observe, observe
- Value diversity and connections
- Cycles and spirals are opportunities to conserve