

Permaculture

is a design system that reconciles human communities with the ecological imperatives of a living planet. Permaculture design may be used to restore ecosystems, create sustainable farms and healthy towns, and promote economic systems that support earth care.

Permaculture provides an ethical and holistic foundation for sustainable culture.

Permaculture principles are derived from three basic ethics:

Care for the earth.

Care for people.

Limiting needs and reinvesting in the future.

The core emphasis of permaculture is that landscapes are complex and integrated wholes.

Ecosystems are healthy and relatively stable when their parts are connected into a diverse web of relationships.

In a permaculture design, decisions flow naturally from observations of these relationships.

Decisions that arise from connection are inherently functional and frequently beautiful.

Permaculture uses the energies of wind, sun, water, soil and the myriad biological processes of the world's organisms. These powerful energies, appropriately used, can reverse desertification.

Soils are reclaimed.

Forests, prairies, and river systems regenerate.

Waste products are minimized and reused.

Human communities provide for their own needs in small, efficient farms and gardens, allowing the broad landscape to return to health.

Permaculture is a body of knowledge, susceptible to learning and teaching.

But permaculture is also a way of organizing knowledge,

a connecting system that integrates science, art, politics, anthropology, sociology, and psychology,

the diverse experiences and resources available in any community.

Excerpted and adapted from
Living Community: A Permaculture Case Study at Sol y Sombra
by Ben Haggard

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