

Outline for the standard 72 hour Permaculture design course

(This is an extract from the Permaculture Design Course handbook - Issued by The Permaculture Institute, Tasmania, Australia in 1985 and edited by Bill Mollison, Reny Slay and Andrew Jeeves)

From the author/s

The handbook is an outline for the standard 72-hour permaculture design course; it is intended as a guide only, and instructors should greatly amplify the contents. It is not necessary to teach the course in the sequence presented herein, as long as the major subjects are covered.

PART I

Section 1. Introduction

1. Permaculture ethics

Section 2. Principles of natural systems and design

1. Principles
2. What is design
3. Methodologies of design
4. Approaches to design

Section 3. Patterns in Design

1. Edge effects and harmonics
2. Flow patterns

Section 4. Classical landscape profiles

1. The humid landscape
2. The arid landscape
3. Minor landscape
4. Climate differences – cold/hot/dry or temperate/tropical/desert

Section 5. Soils

1. Soil analysis and interpretation
2. Creation of humus in soil
3. Difficult soils

Section 6. Design for catastrophe

1. Fire
2. Flood, Earth-movements
3. Cyclone, hurricane
4. Tsunami

Section 7. Buildings and structures

1. The temperate to sub-tropical house
2. The tropical house
3. The desert house
4. Special houses
5. Planting around houses
6. Fencing types and locations
7. Integration of functions in homes

Section 8. Appropriate energy conserving technology

1. Domestic
2. Hydraulic systems
3. Biothermal systems
4. Solar powered devices
5. Wind powered devices

Section 9. Forests and trees

1. Trees as energy transducers – wind, sun and rainfall
2. Types of forests
3. Forest management

Section 10. Water in landscape

1. Duties of water
2. Techniques
3. Irrigation systems
4. Waste water

Section 11. The cultivated ecology

1. Zones
2. Techniques
3. Urban permaculture
4. Functions of animals in a system
5. Practical establishment problems

Section 12. Aquaculture and mariculture

Section 13. Waste disposal and recycling

Section 14. Wildlife management and biological pest control

Section 15. Seeds and nurseries

PART II

THE INVISIBLE STRUCTURES OF SETTLEMENTS

1. Recycling in the community
 - a. The informal economy
 - b. The formal economy
2. Legal forms
3. Village development
4. Commerce

The handbook also specifies how permaculture trainees operate and how to practice the profession of a permaculture designer and consultant