




CONCLUDING A WORKSHOP

Final Design project
& Wrap Up



Notes...

Creative Thinking : End of Course Design Project

Method	: Groups create a model of Permaculture design
Tools	: Large paper, markers, natural materials for making 3-D models
References	: PC Book CH 1 - Permaculture & Sustainable Community Design; CH 2 - Patterns in Nature & Methods for Design
Objective	: Participants put into action the learning from the course



At the end of each Permaculture Workshop, the facilitator should run a final design project for the participants. This will reinforce all of the learning that has happened, and also give the facilitator an opportunity to assess the success of the course.

The time that is used for this exercise will be relative to the contents of the course, but it is recommended that half a day is the minimum amount of time that is needed to design and map out their design, for a longer course allow 1 day.

Preparation

- Enough soil so that groups of 8-10 participants can each work together to create 3-D models of integrated Permaculture systems that cover all of the components of the workshop materials covered
- A good supply of water and at least 1 watering can per group (if regular watering cans are not available, use large tin cans with small nail holes in the bottoms)
- Shovels, spades, hoes and rakes for modeling the hillsides
- Hand trowels and smaller tools for the finer detail of the models
- Other items that can be useful for making creative models (twine, cardboard, pens, small stones to represent rock swales etc)

Running this exercise

Step 1 - Exercise orientation

The facilitator may choose to give each group the same design project - then participants can see the other groups' ideas, and can learn from each other's ideas.

Each end of course design project should match the course contents, however the facilitator should remind the participants that designs should incorporate the Permaculture Ethics and Principles in all design projects.

A list of the ethics and principles can be posted in the class as a reference.

Permaculture Ethics

1. Care for the earth
2. Care for the people
3. Care for the future

Permaculture Principles

1. Diversity
2. Edge effect
3. Energy planning
4. Energy cycling
5. Scale
6. Biological resources
7. Multiple elements
8. Multiple functions
9. Natural succession
10. Relative location
11. Personal responsibility
12. Cooperation not competition
13. See solutions, not problems
14. Observation

Do a quick review of the course contents and goals and how it fits into the overall picture of Permaculture and Sustainable Community Development

Step 2 - Form workgroups

Divide the participants into small groups using a creative group creation technique.

Step 3 - Workgroups define their missions

Before workgroups start building their models, have them define and write down:

- **The project's vision** – One paragraph about the reasoning, benefits and goals of the project
- **The design elements** – A list of the key design elements that they plan to integrate into their design project
- **The list of Permaculture principles** - The workgroups should define at least one design element to demonstrate each of the principles (if possible) - one design element could demonstrate many principles at once.

Additional options (where time provides):

- **A rough time line for implementing the design in their community** – The order in which each of the design components would be done, and how long each step is expected to take.
- **A rough budget / costing for implementing the design in their community** – The cost of the design components that would be done, including materials / labor needed.



Step 4 - Create the models

The participants can create on paper and / or create 3 dimensional elements to be included in the models including, but not limited to:

- Vegetable gardens
- Nurseries
- Composting / mulching systems
- Paths, bridges and roads
- Medicinal plants
- Ponds
- Aquaculture
- Animal enclosures
- Various animals
- Homes and other buildings
- Water catchment (swales, terraces)
- Water sources
- Water storage
- Waste treatment
- Waste water treatment
- Components of small industries
- Fruit trees
- Windbreak trees
- Forest trees
- Farms and rice paddies
- Marketplaces & shops
- Schools
- Medical facilities
- Power supply
- Etc.

The map should be big enough to include all the zones that apply to their design project and the components that will be added.

During the process, the facilitator should move around from group to group to monitor progress and answer questions, while ensuring that all participants are having sufficient opportunities to give their inputs. The facilitator can also offer inputs and ideas about how the various components interconnect and can be re-positioned and or improved to fulfill the maximum amount of Permaculture Principles.


Presentations for feedback and inputs

At the end of the project, each work group should present their design to the whole group. The other participants and facilitator can ask questions and give supporting feedback pertaining to each component of the design.

Document the results of the mapping exercise either using Images and / or drawing the conclusions onto large sheets of paper, which can be posted in the classroom for ongoing reference throughout the course. This documentation will be useful for ongoing brainstorming and use in future trainings.



Creative Thinking : Future actions and network building



Method	: Creative Thinking Exercise
Tools	: Meta board, meta cards, enough markers for everyone
References	: Forum on problems & solutions (See Opening Day 1)
Objective	: Provide a forum for the participants to plan for the future

Preparation

- The facilitator should prepare the Meta board that is big enough for all the participants to read, and cards for the Meta board. If meta board is not available then the exercise can be done with the card on the floor
- Make 4 headings for the Meta board that match the questions below

Running this exercise

Ask the participants to:

- Reflect and share what they have learned
- Plan the next steps they can take to put what they have learned into action
- Divide the participants into small groups, preferably using a creative group creation method.
- Within their workgroups, participants can share their answers to the following questions in the small groups and then write the ideas on to Meta cards:
 - What are important techniques, methods and ideas learned in this course?
 - What are the techniques, methods and ideas I want to learn more about?
 - How do I plan to put what I've learned so far into practice?
 - How can we support each other to put our new learning into action?
- Use as many cards as are needed for each question.
- Once the groups have completed their brainstorm, group representatives can pin the group's ideas onto the Meta board and explain the ideas their group has generated to the rest of the participants.
- Participants can then feedback and give suggestions about other ideas.

The facilitator may choose to bring out the results of the "Forum on problems & solutions" exercise done on the first day, and ask the students to give additional comments and inputs on their original ideas now that they have completed the course.

Presentation : Wrap up: Evaluation and congratulations

Method	: Evaluation, certificate presentation and celebration
Tools	: Evaluation kits, certificates, closing celebration materials
Objective	: The workshop is evaluated, participants receive their certificates



The wrap up session of the course is an important event.

During extensive Permaculture Workshops a strong sense of camaraderie and cooperation is created that can move those involved in profound ways.

Taking the time to celebrate the completion of the course and congratulate each other leaves a lasting sense of joy and inspiration in the people involved. It is also very important for the facilitator to spend some time at the end of each course to self evaluate the results of the course, an each of its sessions - see the Trainer's Resource book for assessment techniques.

Remember : your best teachers are your participants, as well as your own willingness to self evaluate. Through experience and feedback, Permaculture teachers can get better over time.

Participant course evaluation & feedback

Pass out course evaluation sheets (see resources Book) to the participants and ask them to fill them in and return them to you directly

- Encourage them to be honest with their answers, explaining that their constructive criticism is invaluable to help you to improve the course.
- Make sure that you get filled in evaluation sheets from all the participants.
- As some participants with low literacy levels may need help filling in their forms, ask assistants or other participants who are more proficient to provide help to fellow participants as needed.

Facilitator self evaluation

The facilitator may choose to take the time while the participants are filling in their evaluation forms to go back through their lesson plans and note which parts and aspects of the course they feel were most successful and which could be improved next time, and how. This process is preferably based on notes that have been made at the end of each lesson whilst it is still fresh in the facilitator's minds.

Pass out contact lists for the course

The facilitator can take this opportunity to distribute copies of the contact list that was created on the first day. Ideally, the facilitator can also use this process as an opportunity to encourage everyone to network with each other for ongoing support. Announce any post-training follow up meetings if any have been planned.

Conduct closing ceremonies

If there are any traditional closing ceremonies that can be conducted, they can be pre-organized and conducted at this time. The “final night party” is a Permaculture course tradition. Plan a party for the end of the course so you and the participants can have fun and celebrate your achievements together.

Other creative ideas may include:

- **Playing games together** – for example, a Permaculture quiz with two teams
- **Have the class members present items for a small concert** - this could be songs, theatre, juggling, poetry, spoken word etc
- **Give out funny prizes** to students who did silly things during the course



Congratulations!

You have completed your Permaculture workshop.

Through your dedication and efforts you are helping to make environmental rehabilitation, sustainability and the strengthening of community resilience a reality.

Please refer to the compendium book 'The Permaculture Facilitator's Handbook for Training & Assessment' for:


- Hand Outs / Fact Sheets for participants
- Creative Facilitation Techniques
- Post-course Assessment Tools

Please help us develop this book

This book is a work in progress and we very much appreciate any comments, suggestions and inputs you have. Please contact us if you would like to contribute your ideas and lessons for the next editions.

info@idepfoundation.org

With Fond Regards & Appreciation,
The Yayasan IDEP Permaculture Team



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