



Diploma in Permaculture Design:
Education and Community Development

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Blue Mountains Permaculture Institute

www.bluemountainspermacultureinstitute.com.au

This document is a presentation of my work towards a Diploma in Permaculture Education and Community Development from the Blue Mountains Permaculture Institute, under the mentorship of Rosemary Morrow. I made a public presentation of this work at a Permaculture Design Practicum in Barcelona, Spain, in July 2013, with Rosemary in attendance, and later revised & expanded it.

For my diploma fields in Education and Community Development, in this document I will concentrate on my work from July 2011 — November 2013.

I received my PDC certificate at an Occidental Arts and Ecology Center (California) course taught by Penny Livingstone and Brock Dolman in 1998.

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My Beginnings

In the spring of 2011, I was living in the French countryside, creating permaculture gardens, and working in forestry and natural building. It was my second year of experimenting with heavily mulched Hugelkultur beds, which proved to be a very effective technique in this cool, wet continental climate. The vegetables were growing significantly more rapidly and bigger in these beds than in neighbouring gardens, and they required much less irrigation.

I could see that there was something shifting in the world of permaculture. It seemed like a critical mass of some kind was being reached, or a foundational base had been achieved, and now there were many more projects, courses, and information sprouting up everywhere.

This inspired me, and I wanted to be a part of it. I decided that I wanted to move from being a permaculture practitioner to a teacher, organiser, and communicator...but I didn't know how to take the first step.

Top to bottom: Hugelkultur beds



My Call To Action

Meanwhile, I could not but help notice, and be inspired by, the "Arab Spring" which started in Tahrir Square, the main square in Cairo, Egypt, and quickly spread throughout the Middle East.

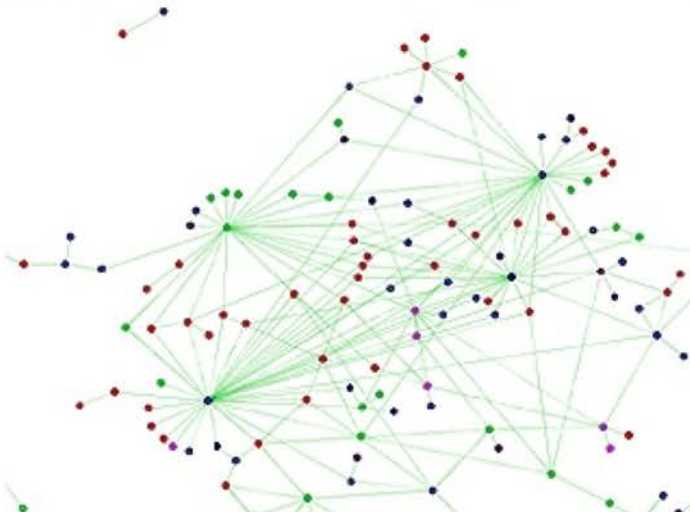
Change was in the air, and as we would see, the year 2011 would stand out as a year of new ideas, inspiration, and rebellion against corrupt and inefficient regimes.

The Arab Spring inspired the 15-M movement in Spain (the "Indignados"). I had the good luck to be in Barcelona during this time when Plaça Catalunya was occupied by thousands of people. This movement in turned inspired the Occupy movement, which began in Wall Street and quickly spread to main squares in cities across the globe which were occupied for extended periods.

Opposite page, top left moving clockwise: Tahrir Square; Plaça Catalunya; Wall Street; A Global Movement.



THE WORLD HAS SPOKEN
1,039 Occupation Events in 87 Countries



Rhizomatic Networked Structures in Nature and Social Movements

It reminded me of the the anti-globalisation movements of the 90s – such as the Zapatistas in Mexico and the protests against the global summits – who were characterised by a horizontal and rhizomatic structure. Rhizomatic roots have no beginning or end; any of their points can be connected to any other; they have many different entry points; they resist breaks and survive attacks; they are open, diverse, non-hierarchical and their nature is to connect. Its corresponding pattern in nature is the network.

I did my first PDC in 1998, just as this movement took off, and I was swept away by this inspiring, global, and effective wave against corporate corporate control, social injustice, and ecological destruction. However, I didn't see how to connect permaculture with the movement.

Top to bottom: Zapatista territory in Chiapas, Mexico; the “Battle of Seattle”, massive protest that shut down the World Trade Organisation summit in 1999; and a network pattern.

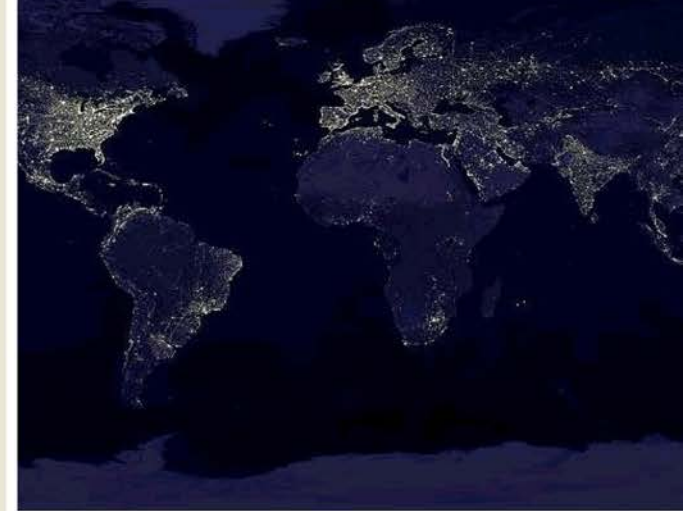
When Events Conspire

In 2011, as I watched as this new movement quickly spread throughout Spain and the world, one day I had an idea whilst surrounded by approximately thousands of people on the streets of Barcelona: could a permaculture group or movement be structured with the same rhizomatic structure, the same network pattern?

And could it be an *urban* permaculture movement, as now for the first time in human history more than half of the population is living in towns and cities? It appeared to me that the social web of a city has a similar structure of an ecological web in nature. And if permaculture is going to be an effective response to global ecological and social crises, the development of urban permaculture is essential.

This idea of forming an urban permaculture movement the with the structure of the Indignados and Occupy movements became a dream which **inspired me to move back to Barcelona and start a group called, unsurprisingly, Permacultura Barcelona. Here begins my work and my story.**

Top to bottom: An urbanised world; 1st PBcn logo; Plaça Catalunya.



Permacultura Barcelona

Es una nueva organización que se está formando en el centro de la ciudad para todos aquellos que quieran aprender y compartir la teoría y la práctica de la permacultura, especialmente en el contexto urbano.

La idea es construir una red de personas en el año 2012 y organizar reuniones, charlas, películas, cursos, excursiones y actividades prácticas.

20 JUNIO // INAUGURACIÓN
Permacultura Barcelona

Encuentro-cena-baile

lugar: RAI, C/Carders 12 ppal.

programa: 20h ▶ Discusión

21h30h ▶ Cenador ecológico

by Barrinar 5€

after cena ▶ Música en Vivo

MÁS INFO O SUSCRIPCIÓN A LA
LISTA DE CORREO ELECTRÓNICO:
info@permacultura-bcn.org

www.permacultura-bcn.org
facebook.com/PermaculturaBarcelona

Permacultura Barcelona



I started to talk to people and ask their advice on how to form this movement...dozens of people, and hundreds of conversations. Permaculture experts from different fields (agro-ecology, bioconstruction, facilitation, forestry, etc.) came together to form an initial development group. We worked hard on the question of how to create a rhizomatic structure that empowers people, but without creating a loose model characterised by inefficient and boring meetings. We held an inaugural presentation and party in June 2012, in which we collected the interests of over 100 people who wanted to be involved in the permaculture movement. Based on this information, we adapted the model of David Holmgren's "Permaculture Flower" to our specific context and created seven commissions: Bioconstruction, Earth, Economy, Tools and Technology, Communications, Health and Well-Being, and Education and Culture, with a coordinator for each commission that would be part of a Circle of Coordination based on Sociocracy.

Top to bottom: Inauguration flyer; Commission meeting; Group Structure.

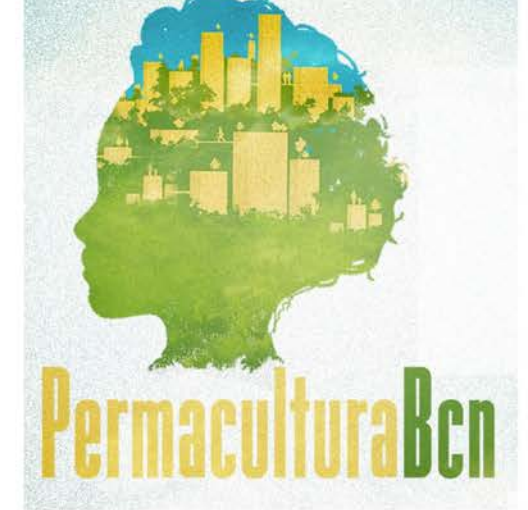


Summary of Permacultura Barcelona July 2011 - November 2013

In its first two years, Permacultura Barcelona (PBcn) developed an urban permaculture community through its social activities and hands-on projects. I had direct or indirect involvement in the following:

- Development stage: Summer 2011 - Summer 2012
- “Bosques Comestibles” (Forest Gardens) project begins at Can Masdeu (CMD): March 2012
- First public event, attended by over 100 people: June 2012
- 1st “Asemblea” & creation of Commissions: Oct. 2012
- “Permacultura Domingos” (Permaculture Sunday), series of talks, workshops, and activities at CMD: Fall 2012
- “Permacultura Jueves”, a series of social events at cultural centre RAI
- “Huerto PermaComunal” (Community Permaculture Gardens) project begins: Feb. 2013
- “Bioconstruye”, a natural building group formed out of the Bioconstrucción commission, begins to build at various social projects: 2012-2013

Top to bottom: New logo; Sunday workshop at CMD; Bioconstruye.



¡BIOCONSTRUYE!

1ª Sección - Martes 04/06 19h

serie de proyecciones de material audiovisual relacionadas con la bio-construcción

1º Nivel - INTRODUCCIÓN A LA BIOCONSTRUCCIÓN

04/06 Martes 19h ¡¡Primera sección!!
- Charla introductoria a la bio-construcción y Permacultura Barcelona
Proyecciones:
- Española - Aleix, Borbuja inmobiliaria
- Eco Aldeas
documental realizado en Argentina

... proxima sección 12 Junio a las 19h ...

ACTIVITAT OBERTA GRATUÏTA
AL CASAL DE BARRI POU DE LA FIGUERA
Carrer Sant Pere mes baix 70





Summary of PBcn Continued



- 1st of 3 Permablitzes in the creation of an urban rooftop garden at Aurea Social, a collaboration between PBcn, permablitz.bcn, & Cooperativa Integral Catalana: March 2012

- 1st of 2 Permablitzes in the creation of the “Huerto PermaComunal” at Can Masdeu: March 2012

- Collaboration with Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca in creation of urban rooftop garden: Fall 2013

See Appendices for documentation of these activities.

My Communications Work in Community Development:

- Coordinator, Communications Commission (Oct. 2012—Onwards)
- Co-Creator/Co-Moderator, Website: www.permacultura-bcn.org (2011—Onwards)
- Creator and Co-Moderator of Facebook fan page & Group “Eventos/Comunidad” (March 2012—Onwards)
- Admin/Moderator, PBcn Email Lists (March 2012—March 2013)
- Creator/Co-Moderator of PBcn Youtube Channel (Nov. 2013—Onwards)

Top to bottom: Signing legal papers; PC Jueves; Permablitz at CMD.

Opposite page: Promotional flyers PBcn

Charla con Jairo Restrepo:

"Si hambre es ley, justicia es rebeldía"

Porque con la comida no se juega

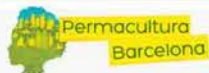


Cuándo: Lunes, 5 de Mayo 2014 (de 17.00 a 20.00)

Dónde: Connecthort-PermaculturaBcn, c/ Àlaba, 24. BCN

www.connecthort.wordpress.com

Más info sobre Jairo: www.lamierdadevaca.com



agricultura
regenerativa

PERMACULTURA BARCELONA

ACTIVIDADES 2a SEMANA · OCTUBRE 2013

MIÉ 09 OCT. | CASAL DEL BARRI POU DE LA FIGUERA

PRÁCTICA DE YOGA

19.30h Actividad impartida por la Comisión de Salud y Bienestar

DOCUMENTAL: "EL PODER DE LA COMUNIDAD"

20.30h Proyección del documental sobre cómo Cuba sobrevivió al pico de petróleo, y debate.

SÁB 12 OCT. | CAN MASDEU

12h JORNADA BOSQUE COMESTIBLE

DOM 13 OCT. | CAN MASDEU

PERMACULTURA DOMINGOS

Programa, cocina y RurBar gestionados por el Grupo del Huerto PermaComunal

TALLER: BIOCONSTRUCCIÓN
CON TIERRA Y PAJA

10h Taller impartido por integrantes del Grupo de Bioconstrucción

CHARLA: HUERTO SINÉRGICO

12.30h A cargo de António Scotti de Permacultura Barcelona y Cambium Permacultura en Formación

TALLER: YOGA HOOP

13h Taller impartido por Yogahoop

DOCUMENTAL: PERMACULTURA URBANA

16h Documental de la serie "Global Gardener" con Bill Mollison

permacultura-bcn.org
facebook.com/permaculturabarcelona



BIOCONSTRUYE!

serie de talleres introductorios y documentales relacionados

Miércoles 27 Noviembre a las 19.30
Se acaba el II ciclo de Bioconstruy
encontramos para valorar lo que h
echo y proximas actividades.

A las 21h Cena de celebración en f
carrer carders 12, principal 08003 Barcelona
Confirmar asistencia en maia@permacultura-l

ACTIVIDAD ABIERTA GRATUITA
AL CASAL DE BARRI POU DE LA FIGUERA
Carrer Sant Pere mes baix 70



"EL FUTURO SERÁ VERDE O NO SERÁ"

FIESTA DE PRESENTACIÓN AGENDA DE LA PERMACULTURA

JUEVES 28 DE NOVIEMBRE, 20.30h

BRINDIS, PICA-PICA & CABARET FREE
CENA + AGENDA 10€

DÓNDE? ASOCIACIÓN RAI
C/ Carders 12, BCN (L4: Jaume I)
www.rai.pangea.org



PERMACULTURA = REVOLUCIÓN

DISFRAZADA DE
JARDINERÍA ORGÁNICA

¿Que es la Permacultura?

La Permacultura es el diseño, creación y construcción de ecosistemas humanos sostenibles, basados en un uso eficiente de los recursos y la energía. El mismo nombre lo dice: Cultura Permanente.

La Permacultura integra conscientemente el paisaje y la gente, buscando proveer alimento, energía y resguardo para nuestros ambientes, garantizando un desarrollo humano, cultural y ambientalmente productivo, y económicamente consecuente, siempre promoviendo la vida en todas sus formas.



FELICES Y VERDES FIESTAS DESDE PERMA BCN

GRACIAS A TODOS POR ESTE AÑO
LLENO DE PROYECTOS!

PERMACULTURA BCN

Community Development

Learning and Recommendations

Diploma Process Debriefing and Learning

This follows the format of debriefing students after they have made a presentation in a Permaculture Teachers Training course, in which presenters are asked:

- **what was the hardest thing,**
 - **the best thing, and**
 - **what they would do differently the next time**
-
- **The hardest thing** about starting a new permaculture group in Barcelona was the cultural aspect. As a foreigner born in an anglo-saxon culture, I had to constantly second-guess myself and ask if the way I perceived reality was shared by people here, and whether I was acting in a manner that engaged people instead of pushing them away. For instance, time management is completely different in the Mediterranean from the Anglo-saxon or Germanic world. People are not nearly as concerned about time, and consequently meetings start late and go late, and if you try to push to make things work as they do elsewhere, it will backfire. Also, there is less emphasis on rigid, highly-organised structures. Things tend to either flow or not, but there is not the same sense of stress about time. As a teacher or event organiser, this can be frustrating, but ultimately it is not a permaculture approach to try to force a way of doing things that does not flow well.

Community Development

Learning and Recommendations

Continued 1

- The best thing was to see how through the use of social media, we created an urban permaculture community rapidly and effectively with hardly any organisational expenses. Social media in and of itself cannot generate a movement...the practical work of organising meetings, talks, films, courses, excursions, and most of all, hands-on activities, is essential.

When I first visited Barcelona in 2006 and mentioned a concept called “permaculture”, the response I received from locals was often either disinterest (I may as well have been talking about reorganising my sock drawer) or even a slight discomfort (as if permaculture was just another strange anglo-saxonism with no relevance to life in the Mediterranean).

Nowadays when I mention it, eyes light up, necks swivel, and locals exhibit a genuine interest in finding out what exactly this intriguing word (albeit anglo-saxon) means. The striking difference in attitude over the intervening years has been influenced by the financial crisis, widespread political corruption, heightened attention to climate change, a generalised sense that fundamental changes in society are long overdue...and a substantial use of social media to publicise the activities of PBcn.



Me gusta · Comentar · Compartir

👍 A Emek Gunaydin, Mirela Staut, Giselle Oli y 24 personas más les



Hola, planeta Terra. Aquest és el primer tuit de #Permacultura Barcelona :)

now via web



Reply

Retweet

More

Community Development

Learning and Recommendations

Continued 2

A handful of people used permaculture design principles work to create a permaculture community in which anyone interested in learning, practising, and sharing permaculture in an urban context can now easily connect with others. In particular, the use of Facebook has been the most effective tool we have had. There is an online group called “Eventos/ Comunidad—Permacultura Barcelona” where anyone can share their events connected to permaculture, and an informational “fan page” and news site about permaculture called “Permacultura Barcelona” that has had several hundred thousand visits and been and “liked” by over 12,000 people from around the world—one of the most read permaculture Facebook pages in Spanish.

Top to Bottom: Facebook fan page; Building community; First “tweet” on Twitter social media.

Community Development

Learning and Recommendations

Continued 3

- **What I would do differently the next time**

One of my objectives in the process of developing the urban group Permacultura Barcelona was to create an organisational structure congruent with the liberating approach to sharing knowledge I adopted from Rosemary's learner-centred teaching. And also, just as importantly, a structure that could be replicated in any city, in a manner horizontal and rapid, in the same way that the Occupy and Indignados movements had an open and horizontal structure which allowed it to spread quickly around the world. We decided to create the structure around the ideas of Sociocracy, in which each commission had a rotating coordinator who was present in a Circle of Coordination that organised the general activities and strategy of the group. The idea was that each commission could organise its own activities, and people could involve themselves in the commissions according to their interests, and the Circle would be working on the big picture but beholden to the commissions.

In practice, though the structure worked to create a permaculture community in Barcelona, there have been several problems:

Community Development

Learning and Recommendations

Continued 4

- One is that the different commissions gave a sense of dispersal, of people (most of all, of the different coordinators) splitting off into their commissions and activities, instead of engendering a sense of working together.
- Second, at least in this early stage of developing a permaculture community, there were too many activities happening relative to the number of people who wanted to participate, so some meetings and activities on the same day or night would be well-attended and others not.
- Third, though there is generally a lot of interest in practical activities, there is relatively little interest in the administrative and bureaucratic work involved in creating and maintaining a volunteer group and its communications, during an economic crisis, without financial compensation.

One result is that there has not been the interest we expected in the organisational work of the group. Originally, the plan was that each coordinator would rotate after six months. However, with a lack of new people wanting to do organisational work, the coordinators ended up rotating less than was planned because often there were not people to replace them.

Community Development

Learning and Recommendations

Continued 5

The glue that binds a group of permaculture people together is the practical work such as planting trees and gardens, building structures, doing dynamic activities...and eating and celebrating together. In fact, here in the Mediterranean the role of food in culture is so important that one of the best and most important things that we did as a group was to share dishes in a picnic after the work days at the Forest Garden and Communal Permaculture Garden at Can Masdeu, as well as the natural building and permablitz events.

What I would do differently if I were starting a similar group again, or what I would recommend to people doing the same in another city: follow Holmgren's principle of small and slow solutions. On one the hand, with all the energy and interest generated by the Indignados movement the crisis — which caused many people to look for solutions that have not been forthcoming from government or industry — I believed that trying to start with a relatively large and complex organisational structure was justified.

However, in retrospect, I think it would clearly have been more efficient to launch the group with a small circle of colleagues, focusing on having fun and building community and doing a few projects and doing them well, instead of experiencing a high stress and workload over the creation, maintenance, and evolution of a larger structure...in which case, the permaculture community would have surely started slower than it did, but it would have required less work to build and been more resilient and enjoyable.



Education

Teaching, Courses, Talks & Conferences

16 MARZO EN EL MARCO DE LA CRIDA A LA REVOLUCION INTEGRAL PARTICIPA EN  PERMABLITZ! DE 9:30 AM, EN ADELANTE



AureaSocial
C/Sardenya 263
<http://www.aureasocial.org/>

**COMIDA DE TRAJE Y A COMPARTIR!
SI TIENES ALGUNA HERRAMIENTA PARA
COSNTRUIR - TRAELO DEMAS ESTA**

Este 16 de marzo en el marco de las jornadas de la Crida a la Revolución Integral se llevará a cabo el Permablitz en la terraza de AureaSocial, con el fin de revolucionar el espacio y crear un magnifico huerto urbano. Convocamos a todas las personas que se sientan con ánimos de transformar la jornada en una oportunidad para generar nueva cultura. Todo aquel que quiera participar le pedimos que mande un mail a hortcomunitari@aureasocial.org para saber con cuántas personas contamos. Gracias ven y forma parte de la Revolución Integral.

Not only did events conspire to be in Barcelona at the start of the Indignados movement, but in June 2011 I had decided to become a permaculture teacher and was wondering about how to go about it. My friends John Jordan and Isabel Fremeaux came to visit my farm in France, and as we did a tour through the garden, I mentioned my decision. John stopped in his tracks, looked at me pointedly, and said, “You’re kidding! Want to come teach the permaculture part of two upcoming Think Like A Forest courses?” I said of course, without hesitation.

I went back to my room and started looking online for permaculture teaching resources in order to get prepared. Almost immediately, a permaculture teachers training course with Rosemary Morrow came up for next month in Austria - and would end just before my first course started in Berlin.

The training gave me the tools and inspiration I needed, and just enough self-confidence, to devote myself completely to permaculture in the coming years.
Top to Bottom: Bosque Comestible; Permablitz; Logo.



Education

Courses

July 2011 - November 2013

- Rosemary Morrow Teachers Training “TT” (Stainz, Austria, July 2011), Student
- Sepp Holzer Permaculture Course (Austria, July 2011), Student
- Think Like A Forest: Art, Activism, & Permaculture (Berlin, Germany, August 2011); (Bretagne, France, Sept. 2011); (Boodaville, Spain, August 2013), Co-Teacher
- Rosemary Morrow Teacher Training (Lagos, Portugal, April 2012), Assistant Teacher
- How to Build a Hugelkultur Bed (France, April 2012), Teacher
- Permaculture, Nature Connection, & Deep Ecology (Pyrenees, Spain, September 2012 & July 2013), Co-Teacher
- Permaculture Design Course (Mallorca, Spain, October 2012), Assistant Teacher
- Intro to Permaculture (Crete, Greece, May 2013); (Athens, Greece, May 2013); (Sierra Norte de Madrid, Spain, April 2013), Teacher
- Urban Community Garden Creation (Favala, Italy, June 2013), Garden Team Leader
- Rosemary Morrow Teacher Training (Mas Franch, Spain, September 2013); (Pyrenees, France, November 2013); (Mallorca, Spain, November 2013)

See Appendices for documentation of these activities.

Education

Talks and Conferences

March 2012—November 2013

- European Permaculture Convergence (Kassel, Germany, July 2012), Participant
- European Permaculture Teachers Partnership meeting (Kassel, Germany, July 2012); (Vale de Lama, Portugal, May 2013), Participant... (Mas Franch, Spain, September 2013), Co-Organiser
- Vermicultura, Fabrica del Sol (Barcelona, Spain, May 2012), Co-Presenter
- Fiesta de Inauguration PBcn, RAI (Barcelona, Spain, June 2012), Co-Presenter
- Urban Rhizomes, Hortet del Forat (Barcelona, Spain, July 2012), Presenter
- Intro to Permaculture, Fiestas de Gracias (Barcelona, Spain, August 2012), Presenter
- Seminari de Dinamització Local Agroecològica (Barcelona, Spain, December 2012), Participant
- Can Masdeu: Intro to Permaculture (2X), Water, Bosques Comestibles (7X), Presenter
- Urban Rhizomes, OVNI Festival, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona & Plaça Catalunya • (Barcelona, Spain, May 2012), Presenter
- Intro to Permaculture, Social Centre “Ateneu la Sèquia” (Manresa, Spain, May 2013), Presenter
- Intro to Permaculture; Urban Rhizomes, Casal del Barri Pou de la Figuera (January & April 2013), Presenter
- Intro to Permaculture, Can Piella (Feb. 2013), Co-Presenter
- Presentation of Permacultura Barcelona; Intro to Permaculture; Talk with Rosemary Morrow to Youth Group, Aurea Social (Barcelona, Spain, 2012 & 2013), Presenter
- Debate: “A Farm for the Future”, EcoConcern (Barcelona, Spain, May 2013), Moderator
- The Edible City, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (June 2013), Presenter

Education

Learning and Recommendations *Diploma Process Debriefing and Learning*

- **The hardest thing** about teaching has been learning to acknowledge when I am not confident about a subject, and letting go of the need to feel as if I need to have all the right answers at my fingertips. This process of letting go started at the first permaculture teachers training course that I took with Rosemary. I came to the course with the idea that the way to be a good teacher was "chalk and talk": standing in front of the classroom and doling out information, pouring my wisdom into the empty vessels that are the students in front of me. That was the only model of education that I was really familiar with in a formal setting.

Over the course of six days, she slowly but surely dismantled this way of thinking. During the daily sessions of practicing different teaching methods, she would be there to give me specific challenges to help me let go of this burden, explaining that the collective wisdom of the group of participants is more than that of just the teacher; that the role of the teacher should be one of a facilitator, ensuring the flow of knowledge between the participants; that formal education as we know it is overrated and ineffective; and that a teacher doesn't need to know everything, and can and **should** say "I don't know, but I will research this and get back to you" when they don't know! Which leads me to...

Education

Learning and Recommendations

Continued 1

- **The best thing** about this learning process has been the letting go of the pressure of needing to always be the “Sage upon the stage”... has allowed me to relax when I’m facilitating a classroom experience, which allows for better teaching. In one teaching session, Rosemary instructed me to use any method aside from lecturing, which threw me into a state of panic. But by realising the wide range of teaching methods available to employ, I swallowed my panic and did the session using a combination of methods...and to my surprise, it went well! For the next session, she instructed me to only use questioning as a teaching method. And again, despite the fear which often precedes a paradigm shift, I found that it was refreshing and empowering to draw out the knowledge that the students already had, instead of feeding to them in a top-down approach. In learner-centred learning, the teacher participates in the learning process with the students, and by doing so becomes enriched, much more so than through chalk-and-talk or formal education models.

- **What I would do differently** if I were beginning again as a teacher...not wait until I was forty years old to begin teaching!

Conclusions

- **Summary of the value of this work and its impact on my life**

Before I had started the path I'm currently on, I had a fair amount of practical permaculture experience, a lot of activist experience, and very little teaching experience. When the anti-globalisation swept me off my feet right after I did my first PDC in 1998, I did not think about how to combine these various passions in my life. This time around when the Indignados/ Occupy movement erupted, I fortunately saw an opportunity to weave them all together – integrating, not separating – which has opened up opportunities for me as both a teacher and an organiser.

- **Who I learned from**

I owe a debt to people such as Rosemary and Starhawk who understand that ecological and social justice must go hand and hand...we cannot have one without the other. The increasing momentum in social and urban permaculture reflects this conclusion. Also, another significant influence on my work has been José Luis Escorihuela, a Barcelona-based facilitator. He encouraged me to consider the risks and problems associated with open social movements, which can easily be disrupted, and to organise more along the lines of affinity groups based on trust and efficient working relationships.

- **The road ahead**

The social movements born in Barcelona in 2011 have made a tremendous impact on the society, and there are opportunities to implement permaculture that didn't exist before. There are groups in the U.S. called "Perma Occupy" that are doing similar work to PBcn: making connections with social movements, becoming active in protests, and offering positive "solutionary" skills to the public that are necessary to make a paradigm shift towards a carbon neutral, ecologically vibrant, and socially just society.

Conclusions 2

To the best of my knowledge, the connections between social movements and a permaculture group, and the possibility of rapidly creating public awareness and a permaculture community, are special contributions that PBCn has made to permaculture on an international level.

- There is a direct connection between the science of ecology and horizontal networked structures that are becoming increasingly more prevalent in society, e.g. the Internet, Youtube (participative instead of passive like TV), the sharing economy (AirBnb instead of hotels), community car rental schemes, and social media such as Facebook. Of course, contradictions abound: Facebook and Airbnb are hugely profitable corporations that represent the system we are trying to change. However, permaculture videos on Youtube are an increasingly valuable resource. And after experimenting with email lists, open source social media, and two different website software platforms, we then turned to Facebook and found it to be the most effective communications and online organising tool by far...sadly, because most people are there and not on open source/alternative sites...and because it works rather seamlessly and without fail compared to the constant software glitches and updates required by websites. Despite the corporation behind it, there is a reason why Facebook was one of the crucial tools used by activists in the Arab Spring.

Appendix I

Projects & Community Development



Can Masdeu Forest Gardens (Barcelona, March 2012—Onwards)



Located in a former centuries-old leper colony in a natural park in the hills above Barcelona, Can Masdeu (CMD) <www.canmasdeu.net> is today one of the flagship agro-ecology and social projects in Spain. In the spring of 2012, the Barcelona city government created a contest for local associations to present their vision for how to connect the city to the park, and CMD asked me if I would like to be involved in the process and present a permaculture project as part of our proposal. I proposed to create a forest garden (“Bosque Comestible”) in an unused slope, and before the contest was over, I initiated the project. We won the contest, but the city abandoned the process, a frustration but the problem is the solution: we had started to build a forest garden and what would become a multi-generational and engaging project.

I applied for and received a grant from Foundation Terre Humaine <<http://www.terrehumaine.org>> for the project, and began to organise other activities there such as weekly talks and workshops on Sundays.

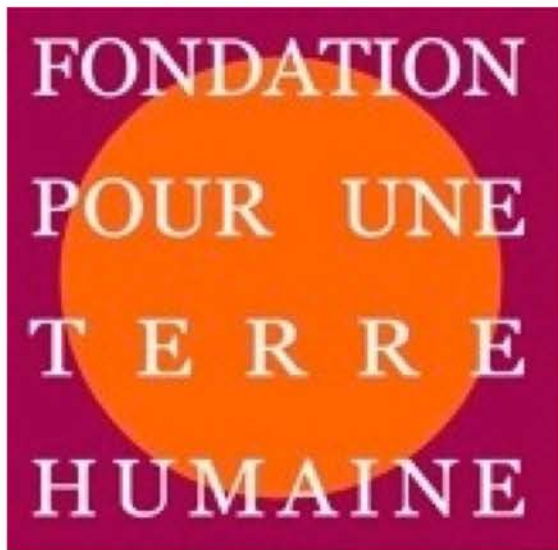
Both pages: Activities of the “Bosques Comestibles” project







Ecodharma Forest Garden (Pyrenees, Spain, June 2012)



In the grant application to Terre Humaine, I also applied for and received a grant to create a forest garden at Ecodharma <www.ecodharma.com>. The forest garden design work was done by the community residents. Merci Beaucoup, Terre Humaine!



Top to bottom: planting trees in the forest garden, Terre Humaine logo.

Huerto Permacomunal, Can Masdeu (Barcelona, Spain, Winter 2012)

In the early winter of 2012, I was contacted by Can Masdeu about the possibility of Permacultura Barcelona managing a communal garden space. After weeks of negotiations with the “Huertos Comunitarios” commission, I was able to obtain the concession of a beautiful terrace in the valley, and I began to organise the project by inviting colleagues from the group, as well as Permablitz.bcn, to design and build the garden.

Top to bottom: Permablitz to build the garden; Hand-painted sign; Planting trees in the garden with my mother





Urban Community Garden, AureaSocial (Barcelona, Spain, Oct. 2012—March 2013)



In the fall of 2012 I began communicating with AureaSocial, an excellent example of a social and urban permaculture project, about the possibility of creating a rooftop permaculture garden. I participated in a dozen planning meetings and was active in the creation of this garden in collaboration with Permablitz.bcn. In September 2013, Rosemary and I did a talk on permaculture there.



Top to bottom: visit from Rosemary; Water gardens; Permablitz.

Urban Garden, Edificio PAH (Barcelona, Fall/Winter 2013)

I began to collaborate with the Plataforma de los Afectados por la Hipoteca (PAH) in the design and creation of an urban community garden for this social housing movement. The PAH is one of the most popular social movements of modern history, with approximately 80% of the Spanish public in favor of their actions defending the right to have a roof over one's head. Rosemary was present for the first design meeting.

Top to bottom: visit from Rosemary; building garden beds with plastic crates and geotextile fabrics to hold the soil; digging soil for the urban garden at Can Masdeu.





European Permaculture Teachers Partnership (Dec. 2011—Onwards)

In the winter of 2011-2012, I co-wrote the application for Spain to be represented in the European Permaculture Teachers Partnership <<http://permateachers.eu/>>, and later participated in three of the partnership meetings, and co-organised one of them.

Top to bottom: Party at Barcelona beach after Spanish meeting; 1st meeting in Germany; Presentation at 1st meeting.

Permablitz: Can Masdeu & AureaSocial (Winter-Spring 2013)



I served as a co-organiser of four permablitzes in collaboration with Permablitz.bcn in 2013.

Permaculture Council for Europe (August 2012—Onwards)



In 2012 I joined the Permaculture Council for Europe.

Appendix II

Courses

Think Like A Forest: Art, Activism, & Permaculture



(Berlin, Germany, August 2011)

Think Like A Forest: Art, Activism, & Permaculture



The second TLF course at La R.O.N.C.E. (Bretagne, France, September 2011)

Rosemary Morrow Teacher Trainings



I was an assistant teacher to Rosemary at 4 different teacher trainings: Portugal, Catalunya, France, & Mallorca, 2012 - 2013

How to Build a Hugelkultur Bed (France, April 2012)

This was a three day course I taught at a farm in central France.
Video and description here: <http://vimeo.com/41528114>





Permaculture and Deep Ecology (Pyrenees, Spain, September 2012 & July 2013)



I co-created the curriculum and taught the permaculture part of two different Permaculture, Nature Connection and Deep Ecology courses, exploring the connections and differences between permaculture and various aspects of ecology and ecological thinking.

Top to bottom: Demonstrating how to make an A-Frame; Design Work; Demonstrating how to use an A-Frame.



Intro to Permaculture (Sierra Norte, Spain, April 2013)



La UniPoSiBLE 2013: AULA AGROECOLOGIA.

6-7 de Abril **TALLER DE INTRODUCCION A LA PERMACULTURA.**

Diseño de sistemas de permacultura para autoconsumo, con practica de diseño en huerto en La Cabrera.

Ponente: Alfred Decker. Movimiento Permacultura Barcelona

- Sábado 6 Abril. 17-20 h Centro de Humanidades de La Cabrera Inicio a la Permacultura
- Domingo 7 Abril. 11-14 h Cita en CCHH a las 11 horas, diseño practico en Huerto-gallinero.

Lugar: Centro de Humanidades de La Cabrera

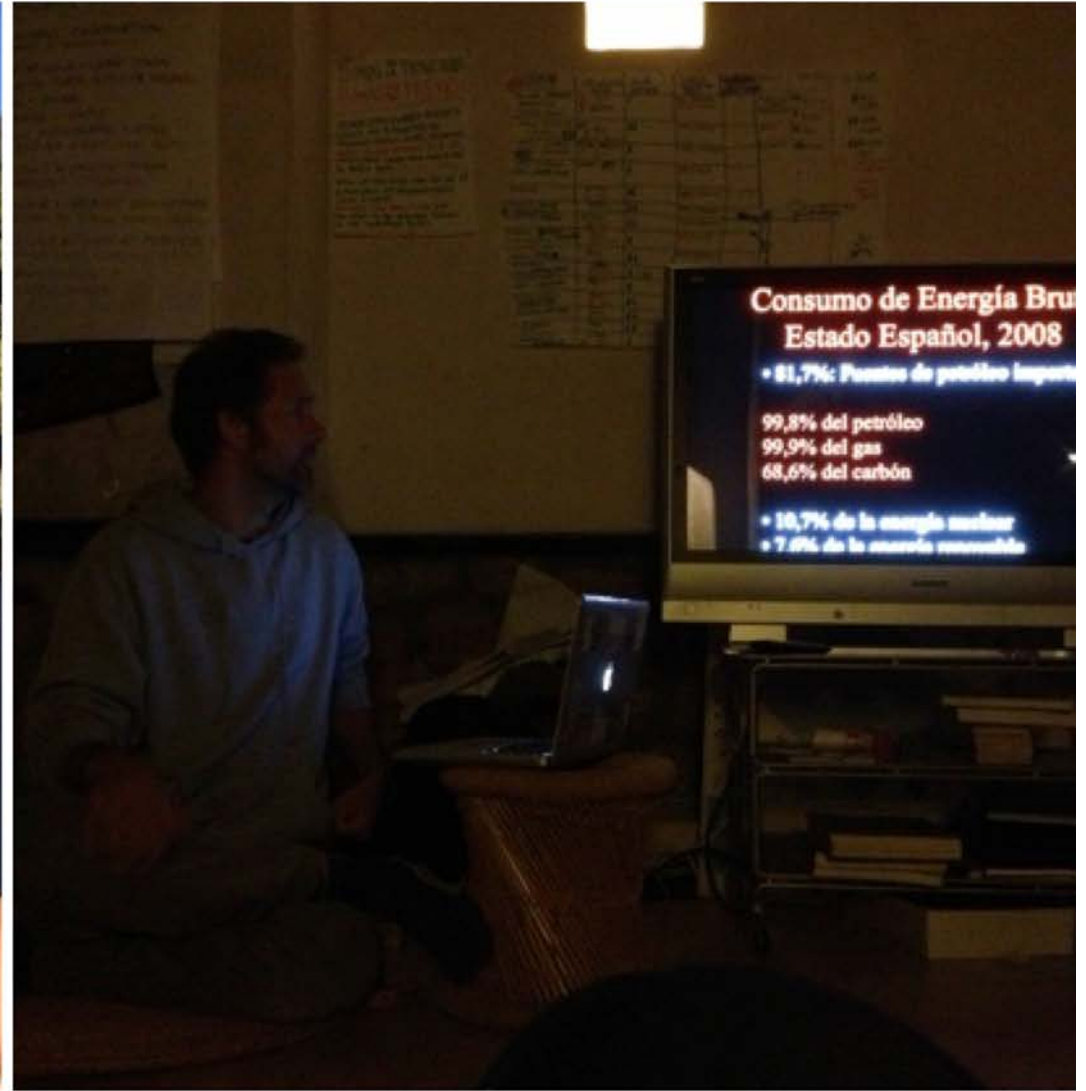
+Info: <http://unipopularsierranorte.wordpress.com>

Inscripciones y consultas en: alfred@permacultura-bcn.org

<http://permacultureglobal.com/users/5200-alfred-decker> + <http://www.permacultura-bcn.org>

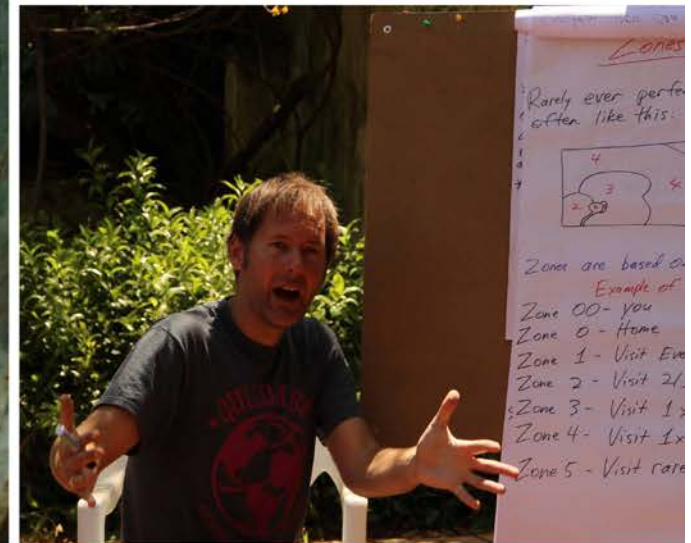


PDC (Mallorca, Spain, October 2012)



I taught two sessions at this PDC, “Social Permaculture” and “Urban Rhizomes”.

Intro to Permaculture (Crete, Greece, May 2013)



Intro to Permaculture (Athens, Greece, May 2013)



Top to bottom, Clockwise: Web of life game; Flyer; Demonstrating urban permaculture.

Urban Community Garden Creation (Favala, Italy, June 2013)

I was the team leader of Garden Design in the GIARDINI IN CAMPO International landscape workshop in Sicily, June 9-16, 2013. The workshop represented a theoretical and practical opportunity to learn while creating a garden at the Castello Chiaramonte, with the support of architects, landscape architects, artists, teachers, administrators, farmers and local residents. I gave a lecture on my work in permaculture, analysed the site, co-created a design, and organised a team of 12 architectural and landscaping students, and built the garden.

Top to bottom: Presentation of permaculture; Building garden beds; the finished beds with mulch and the start of planting.



PDC & Practicum (Barcelona, Spain, July 2013)



Assistant teacher to Rosemary.

Think Like A Forest: Art, Activism, & Permaculture



Boodaville, Spain, August 2013

Appendix III

Talks & Conferences



a les 19:30h

ESPai Icaria

Xerrada-debat al Casal de Barri Pou de la Figuera

INTRODUCCIÓ A LA PERMACULTURA

A càrrec d'Alfred Decker

<http://permacultureglobal.com/users/5200-alfred-decker>

ENTRADA LLIURE

La Permacultura és el disseny, creació i construcció d'ecosistemes humans sostenibles, basats en un ús eficient dels recursos i l'energia. El mateix nom ho diu: Cultura Permanent.

La Permacultura integra conscientment el paisatge i la gent, buscant proveir aliment, energia i reïgnard pels nostres entorns, garantint un desenvolupament humà cultural i ambientalment productiu, i econòmicament conseqüent, sempre promovent la vida en totes les seves formes.

La permacultura és una re-evolució, disfressada d'horticultura ecològica... i ja està en marxa!

Permacultura Barcelona
www.permacultura-bcn.org
 Facebook: PermaculturaBarcelona
info@permacultura-bcn.org

Espai Icaria
www.icalialibreria.com
info@icalialibreria.com
 Arc de Sant Cristòfol, 11-23 Barcelona



From 2011 - 2013, I gave 23 talks, debates & workshops, organised 1 conference & attended 4 more.



Dimarts, **15 de gener**
a les **19:30h**

ESPAI Icaria

ECOLOGIA
DONA I GÈNERE
RELACIONS MUND-SI
PAU I CONFLICTES
LITERATURA
POÈSIA
INFANTIL

Xerrada-debat a la llibreria ESPAI ICARIA

RIZOMES URBANS

A càrrec d'**Alfred Decker** (www.permacultura-bcn.org)

"Rizomes Urbans" és una investigació sobre la possibilitat de canviar i donar forma a la nostra manera de viure a Barcelona a través de l'agricultura orgànica, el paisatgisme urbà, l'arquitectura sostenible, les energies alternatives, i els moviments socials.

Durant els darrers 15 anys Alfred Decker ha compaginat el seu interès per la permacultura amb el seu activisme social i ecològic en diferents parts d'Europa i Amèrica. Actualment viu a Barcelona i és l'iniciador "Permacultura Barcelona", un grup de permacultura basat en el centre de la ciutat.

**La permacultura és una re-evolució,
disfressada d'horticultura ecològica... i ja està en marxa!**

Permacultura Barcelona

www.permacultura-bcn.org

Facebook: [PermaculturaBarcelona](https://www.facebook.com/PermaculturaBarcelona)

info@permacultura-bcn.org

ESPAI Icaria

Arc de Sant Cristòfol, 11-23 · 08003 Barcelona

www.icularibreria.com

info@icularibreria.co





Artesano Del Arte Insano

Hace 14 horas

Veniu a la xerrada i taller que us oferim a sants, som un grup que volem aprendre i veure creixer de la millor manera possi hort urbà, per això hem convidat a que ens faci aquesta xerrada. Alfred Decker tota una eminència en el món de la permacultura perdeu!!!

Ver traducción



Huerto Urbano Permacultura por Alfred Decker

El viernes a la(s) 18:00

La Lottería (Associació Cultural) en Barcelona

Asistirás

Participantes



Jornades de Permacultura*

*Disseny, creació i construcció d'ecosistemes humans sostenibles, basats en l'ús eficient dels recursos i l'energia. El mateix nom ho indica: Cultura Permanent.

- Div. 31 de maig a les 19:30 h
RIZOMES URBANS.
intro a la permacultura

Alfred Decker
Col·lectiu Permacultura-Bcn

"Rizomes urbans" és una investigació sobre la possibilitat de canviar i donar forma a la nostra manera de viure en un entorn urbà, a través de la permacultura i els seus components: l'agricultura ecològica, el paisatgisme urbà, l'arquitectura sostenible, les energies alternatives, i els moviments socials.

Tot a l'Ateneu La Sèquia, C/Amigant.
Accés per Pl. Major

- Diss. 1 de juny de 10:00 a 17:00 h
AMB LES MANS A LA MASSA.
3 tallers (Bo d'ajut 3€)

Construcció d'un forn tradicional de fang.

Col·lectiu Base-A

Disseny integral d'espais amb criteris de permacultura.
Practiquem amb l'Ateneu!

Col·lectiu Base-A

Elaboració de cervesa artesana

Cervejers: Cal Cases

- A les 13:00
LES FILOMENES ("pit i cuixa folk")

- A partir de les 14:00 h



JUEVES 10 DE MAYO

HALL Y AUDITORIO: PROYECCIÓN SIMULTÁNEA.
DE 19:00 A 24:00

19:00

HALL: intervenció

Urban Rhizomes,

Alfred Decker (www.permacultura-bcn.org)

Urban Rhizomes se centra en la ambivalencia de la naturaleza y los movimientos sociales. A través de un análisis de ciertos árboles y plantas que contienen tanto elementos productivos como destructivos, cuestionaremos ciertas tendencias políticas que reducen el discurso a una dicotomía entre el bien y el mal. Podemos aprender de las fuerzas de la naturaleza y utilizarlas para construir el mundo en el que nos gustaría vivir hoy, sin esperar a que el colapso nos golpee con toda su fuerza.

Durante los últimos 15 años Alfred Decker ha compaginado su interés por la permacultura con su activismo social y ecológico en diferentes partes de Europa y América. Actualmente vive en Barcelona donde desarrolla el proyecto colectivo "Permacultura Barcelona", un grupo de permacultura en el centro de la ciudad.

19:30

The Mahabharata, Segunda parte:

El destierro. 105 min

Peter Brook – Guión de Jean-Claude Carrière,
Francia-Reino Unido, 1989



11

Engañado de los que de encarn: al exilio. A los bosque simulación *El Mahabharata* período di siempre p: reverso. Sa la naturale tacto direc del conoci

Bio

Alfred's passion in life has been ecological and social justice activism, of which permaculture has played a central part. "I love the natural world, and working with nature through permaculture has helped to ground and sustain me."

Since his first PDC in 1998 in California, Alfred has been involved with social movements and projects throughout Europe and the Americas. He is the founder of Permacultura Barcelona (www.permacultura-bcn.org) and the Forest Garden project at Can Masdeu (www.canmasdeu.net), is a member of the Permaculture Council of Europe, and participated in the European Permaculture Teachers Partnership (www.permaculturecouncil.eu).

After taking a permaculture teachers training with Rosemary Morrow in 2011, he undertook a two year mentorship and later co-taught five courses with her. Committed to furthering the teachers' training platform "Permaculture Teaching Matters" (PTM) that Rosemary developed in over three decades of teaching experience around the world, Alfred co-edited her forthcoming PTM manual and organised a successful crowdfunding campaign to develop the platform.

Alfred has given courses and talks widely throughout Europe. Having completed a post graduate diploma in sustainable architecture and renewable energy (Centre for Alternative Technology), he left his beloved Barcelona in order to move to Mallorca and collaborate with the group Permacultura Mediterránea (www.permamed.org).

Alfred Decker / www.12pdesign.net / alfred@12pdesign.net



Blue
Mountains
Permaculture
Institute



My deepest thanks and appreciation to my mentor Rosemary Morrow
for sharing her wisdom, teaching skills, stories, and joy of living.