Integrated Ecovillage Design
By Hildur Jackson, Denmark
GAIA EDUCATION

A four week’s holistic overview of how to design sustainable habitats all over the world

The Ecovillage Design Education
Gaia Education

Presents

Ecovillage Design Education

» A four-week comprehensive course to the fundamentals of Ecovillage Design for Urban and Rural Settlements

» An official contribution to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

» Curriculum conceived and designed by the GESEE-Global Ecovillage Educators for a Sustainable Earth

GEN PROGRAMME
Habitats are holographic representations of the whole
Sustainability Circle

1. Building Community & Embracing Diversity
2. Communication, Facilitation, & Conflict Resolution
3. Personal Empowerment and Leadership
4. Health and Healing
5. Local, Bioregional and Global Outreach

1. Shifting the Global Economy to Sustainability
2. Right Livelihood
3. Social Enterprise
4. Community Banks & Financial
5. Land and Natural Resources

1. Green Building & Retrofitting
2. Local Food
3. Appropriate Technology & Renewable Energy Design
4. Restoring Nature and Natural Disasters
5. Integrated Ecology

Sustainability Circle
"Four Keys"
To Sustainable Communities Everywhere on the Planet

1. **The Song of the Earth**
   A Synthesis of the Scientific and Spiritual Worldviews
   The Worldview Key of the EDE, www.gaiaeducation
   Editors Will Keepin and Maddy Harland

2. **Beyond You and Me**
   Inspirations and Experiences for Building Community
   The social Key of the EDE, www.gaiaeducation
   Editors: Kosha Jaubert, Sieben Linden and Robin Alfred, Findhorn

3. **Gaian Economics:**
   Living Well Within Planetary Limits
   The Economic Key of the EDE, www.gaiaeducation
   Editors: Jonathan Dawson, Helena Norberg-Hodge and Ross Jackson

4. **Designing Ecological Habitats**
   Creating a Sense of Place
   Editors: Lloyd Williams/ Max Lindegger, Crystal Waters, Australia; Maddy Harland, London, UK
Design

Inner structural design:
- ecological,
- Social: working groups, decisions, conflicts, rules
- Economic: local currency, financing, informal economy
- Spiritual: meditations, worldview

Outer physical design
- Ecological ++++
- Social ++++
- Economic +
- Spiritual ++++
Søllerød north of Copenhagen
Ecological Design

- Orientation related to sun, wind, contours
- Precipitation (rain), dams, swales
- Infrastructure
- Food production system, plants/animals
- Zoning
- Wilderness, Restoration of Nature
- From cradle to cradle
Aerial Photograph of China Walls
Proposed development area shown.
China Walls, Australia
Dams, Roads, houses and Community Centre
Blue shading represents a 20 metre protection zone around streams, dams, and springs.
China Walls 1:10,000
(200m grid)
Solar Access
Estimated areas in shade at 10:00 a.m. on Winter Solstice. House sites should be excluded from these areas.
CLASS 2: Arable land suitable for regular cultivation with level or gentle slopes. Moderate to high production levels.

CLASS 3: Grazing land well suited to improved pasture with level or moderate slopes. May be cultivated or cropped in rotation with pasture or suitable for special class crops. Moderate production levels.

CLASS 4: Suitable for grazing or improved pasture using minimum tillage. Suitable for special class crops such as timber, grapes and blueberries.

CLASS 5: Unsuitable for agriculture or at best suitable for light grazing. Low productivity on native and improved pasture. Moderate to steep slopes.
Integrated Renewable Energy Farm: El Bassam Dedelsdorf/ Preben Maegaard, Folkecenter, Thy, DK. Energy Autonomy
Future Farming, Production without Waste

Rape straw for mulching, rapeseeds for oil and fodder, cows and pigs produce milk, meat and raw materials for biogas, gas for electricity, nutrition for aquaculture in dike/pond system. For fruits, vegetables, compost, clean water.
Zoning related to home
Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, DK

Giv visionen vinger

– bliv medlem af
Folkecenterets støttekreds
Social design

• Parking at the entrance of the community
• Community house and common facilities near entrance or centrally
• Homes placed along narrow road, in a square, subdivided in groups
• Playgrounds for children, dancing, ball
• Visitors’ area clearly defined for privacy
• Education center
Sættedammen cohousing, Allerød, Denmark. Community house

The community house, 1:300
1. Dining and living room, 2. Kitchen, 3. Playroom,
4. TV-room, 5. Billiards room, 6. Bath and sauna,
• Saettedammen. Plan of cohousing

• 30 houses + common house
Economic Design

• Inner Design:
  • What will be common economy?
  • Local Currency.
  • Informal economy
  • Internal rules
  • Rules for coops etc

• Outer Design:
  • Special area for businesses,
  • Store, offices, healthcenter, restaurants
Steen Moeller, Freeland, DK: No debt, no subsidy, no waste
Spiritual Design

• Landscape Temples/ Energy Lines
• Placement of Sacred places
• Sacred Buildings
• Herbs for Tea, Spices and Healing
• Places for Creativity, Dancing,
• Wilderness
Landscape temples of Findhorn
Lilleoru Ecovillage, Tallinn, Estonia
20 homes to the north, red: education center (in the middle) + common house to the west, blue: lake excavated, green: flower of life, spiritual constructions; gardens
Snabegaard, Vrads Sande, DK
Bjergager, Fyn, Danmark
Integrated Ecovillage Design:

Integrating

• Ecological
• Social
• Spiritual
• Economic

Soon this lecture will be available on www.gaia.org as part of ”The 4 Keys”
Ecovillage at Ithaca, New York State, USA
Munksoegaard, Denmark
Lavegaard: 17 ha, Humlebæk, Denmark with Bakken cohousing
Declaration of Global Interdependence and Sustainable Habitats

• All Life is one and intimately interrelated. We influence each other and are dependent on each other all over the planet. We are one with nature, plant and animal systems. Every single person is responsible for the wholeness and can influence it. This is a new spiritual paradigm to replace a materialistic with great implications. It was formulated about 100 years ago by science in the west, but ages ago in the East by perennial philosophy. It is now ready to become the foundation of a new global culture.

• Consciousness is primary and we are as such manifestations of global consciousness.

• We all share the possibility of access to global consciousness and co-creation of it. Our light may be dimmed from impressions from this and earlier lifetimes and may need cleaning away of these old impressions and outdated thoughts for our light to shine and us to get access to global consciousness.

• The purpose of life on Earth is the continuation of 3 billion years of evolution. It is the fundamental purpose behind all political, economic and social structures.

• Humans can live aligned in support of this purpose and create societies and communities in harmony with this purpose and with spiritual and natural laws. Global justice, listening to nature and respecting her are fundamentals.

• In doing so, settlements, villages and communities will be holographic reflections of the whole — “as above so below”.

• Groups will create communities, neighborhoods, ecovillages or Earth Community, which are sustainable spiritually, ecologically, socially and economically. A new economic system, laws and new technologies will be invented and adapted to support this endeavour.

• The role of planners, architects and Ecovillage designers will be to facilitate the vision and will of such groups.

• Planners and designers will need an overview of all the knowledge necessary to build such communities. Gaia Education and the four weeks holistic introduction: Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) provides this overview.

• Architecture, renewable energy supply, gardening, local food production, restoration of nature, wilderness, businesses, common facilities and care of the week will be one integrated whole planned together as "ecovillages".

• "Ecovillages are possible in all local communities all over the world. They will happen once the materialistic worldview of a global dominance is abandoned voluntarily because it cannot solve the problems or because we are forced by nature or other circumstances.

• An Ecovillage lifestyle is also a peace initiative as it will end destruction of nature and species, pollution, regional wars or struggles over land, resources (oil) or power and be CO2 neutral from below and facilitate Earth Community.