

Permaculture Design Course

with Patrick Whitefield

May 13th to 27th 2012 * Ecovillage of Sieben Linden

Permaculture:

The founders of "Permaculture" were searching for answers to the pressing issues of our time back in the mid-70ies. Looking at natural ecosystems, they worked out the underlying principles and applied them to agricultural systems and in various other areas of life. An ethics, "Earth care, People care, Fair shares", is the basis of this concept of sustainability, which empowers people to take responsibility for their lives and their environment.



This Permaculture Design Course offers a broad overview of topics related to the creation of sustainable environments and lifestyles: from ecological basics concerning plants, water, climate, soil, etc. to practical solutions in the areas of housing, infrastructure, energy, economic systems and social issues. On top of this overview, a wide range of methods and techniques which support working on designs for sustainable surroundings will be conveyed to the participants. During design sessions in small groups, these methods and approaches can be internalized.

The venue, the Ecovillage of Sieben Linden, is an internationally recognized social-ecological model settlement, a centre for adult education and an intentional community. It offers a productive learning environment by striving towards reduced consumption of resources, closed material cycles and an increased biodiversity on the site and in its direct surroundings. Its overall aim is to offer a greater quality of life for its inhabitants while showing replicable examples to the outside public.

The specific objectives of the course are:

- acquiring methods and techniques for sustainable design
- learning about best practice of appropriate technology, e.g. green building; water purification; solar technology
- acquiring practical skills and knowledge in group work on small projects
- improving and practicing group skills in a multicultural environment
- exchanging experience between participants from different European countries
- embracing European diversity

The training will enable participants to work with permaculture and to integrate it into their projects. The international standards of Permaculture Design Courses (72-hour-courses) and of the European Permaculture WorkNet are met.

Course content:

- Introduction to permaculture: Ethics and philosophy, permaculture principles; Patterns, energies, systems in permaculture
- Introduction to design concepts; Methods for observation and analysis: Basemap, Sectoring, Input-Output-analysis
- Planning methods: Data Overlay, Zoning,...
- Principles, patterns and components of ecosystems ; Trees and other plants; Soil and climate; Water; Animals
- Permaculture aspects in the Ecovillage of Sieben Linden
- Architecture; Ecological infrastructure; Planning ecological settlements
- Social permaculture
- Economy and organisational design
- Designwork in groups & Presentation of designs
- Next steps



Methodology:

The course will be designed so that all spheres of human beings are satisfied: the mind, the body and the soul. Thus there will be a great diversity of methods, for theoretical inputs as well as for practical work and forming of a group.

Methods and techniques of the theoretical part will include: slide shows, movies, lectures, work small groups, action learning processes, self-exploration, scripts, guided tours, etc.

The practical part will both work with individual and group work on one or several design tasks, where participants practice the various methods that are taught in the theory-sessions. Practical work is also offered in hands-on-projects (like building a composting toilet or setting up a sheet-mulch-bed).

The formation of a group will be supported by a number of methods that have been tried in social fields, for example dialogues and forum.

Methods of participatory processes (e.g. Open Space) are of course part of this training. Active participation helps projects to be successful and sustainable due to the recognition and possible inclusion of as many needs of people as possible.

The course also includes gaining insights into the overall design and appropriate technology as well as the organisational structure and educational activities of the hosting Ecovillage of Sieben Linden.

This means, the Ecovillage of Sieben Linden will serve as a living example for sustainability and as a field of practice. The participants will get the opportunity to see and experience ecological and social solutions and to witness challenges met by the community in their process of setting up a sustainable human settlement.

The team:

Diversity is important to us, so we apply this permaculture principle to the composition of our teaching teams. This time, we are delighted to welcome Patrick Whitefield as the main teacher of this course! Both Sandra Campe and Beate Walsdorff will work alongside him as teachers and facilitators. On top of this, Tomas Remiarz will join the course for some days, plus various teachers from Sieben Linden Ecovillage.

Here is a little introduction to the main team:

Patrick Whitefield

Patrick is the main tutor on this course. He was brought up on a smallholding and qualified in agriculture. After several years working in agriculture in the Middle East and Africa, he settled in central Somerset (UK) where he still lives. He's always been a vegetable gardener, and some fifteen years ago he planted an orchard which now gives him an abundant supply of apples from September to March. In the past he's made his living by a variety of country crafts, and for a while he was a prominent member of the Green Party.

Since 1990 he's devoted himself to permaculture, especially to teaching it, and has appeared on the BBC2 television programmes (*A Farm for the Future*). Patrick is now one of the leading permaculture teachers in Britain, indeed in Europe. He combines a deep knowledge of the subject with an inspiring and professional teaching style. He's written several books on permaculture (e.g. *The Earth Care Manual*). His latest book is [The Living Landscape, how to read it and understand it](#), a subject especially close to his heart.



Sandra Campe

Sandra has been living in the Ecovillage of Sieben Linden for more than eight years. Before this, she studied organic agriculture and Permaculture has accompanied her throughout these years as focus and direction.

In Sieben Linden her focus shifted over the years - from practical gardening to settlement design and participatory processes, for the development of the settlement as well as with young volunteers. She strongly believes both in the empowering nature of permaculture and in the potential of (young) people as change agents. Because of this, she started a social structure for young adults in Sieben Linden Ecovillage and she sends out young volunteers on a learning service to peace projects in south asia.

After receiving her Permaculture Diploma in summer 2008, she started to work as a tutor of students at the German Permakultur Akademie and as a teacher of Permaculture courses - and is very enthusiastic about it!

Beate Walsdorff

Beate has been practicing permaculture for the last ten years in as different places as New Zealand, Brazil and Germany. Formally trained in social work, she combined this background with her permaculture activities while working and living in different permaculture and ecovillage projects in South America, e.g. the nomadic ecovillage "La Caravana Arcoiris por la Paz". With La Caravana she focussed on spreading useful and important tools like group communication, consensus decision making, community gardening, earth building and permaculture design within a variety of brazilian communities and regions.

Now, back in Germany, she is especially dedicated to seed saving and bio-regional networking in the „Lassaner Winkel“, a region in the very north east of Germany, where she is co-founding a permaculture based community project. For the past three years she has been a regular co-teacher and facilitator within the educational programmes of Sieben Linden Ecovillage.



Tomas Remiarz

Tomas has practised permaculture since 1995, and taught permaculture courses in several European countries since 1998. He has extensive experience in working with urban and rural communities, and worked on bioregional reforestation of the British uplands for several years. Since 2006, he has been travelling around Britain and Europe, giving practical and design support to permaculture and other projects. Apart from this and teaching courses, he is currently involved in setting up a rural intentional community, and developing a permaculture research network.

General information:

- Dates:** May 13th-27th, 2012
- Venue:** Ecovillage of Sieben Linden, Saxony-Anhalt, North-east Germany (broadly between Hamburg, Hannover and Berlin), www.siebenlinden.de
- Course costs:** 1.478,- Euro, including all costs (Please note „funding options“ below)
- => Course fee: 750,- Euro
 - => Accommodation and food: 728,- Euro (accommodation in rooms for 2-3 people; food is 100% organic and vegetarian / vegan)

Funding options:

- **non-german EU-residents:**

The course is listed in the **Grundtvig-Comenius course database**, under the EU's „Lifelong Learning program“. This means: **FULL FUNDING** is available for eligible non-German EU residents for full board, accommodation, course fees and transport cost.

You will find the course in the database at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase> (search for "Permakultur Institut")

For instructions on how to apply for Grundtvig-funding:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/instructions%20for%20applying-EN.doc>

To find your own country's National Agency for the „Lifelong Learning Programme“ of the EU, please go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc1208_en.htm

We will provide more information on how to apply for funding once you got in touch with us.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR
GRUNDTVIG FUNDING APPLICATIONS IS
JANUARY 16th, 2012!!!**

- **german residents:**

German residents can apply for a „**Bildungsprämie**“, which will cover part of the course costs.

- **others:**

If you have questions about the funding or if you are not eligible for funding and the price means a restriction to you, please get in touch with **Beate Walsdorff: sementeviva@gmail.com**. She will answer your questions and help to work out a solution.

Registration:

You will find the course online at:

www.siebenlinden.de/htmcontent2114.html

To register for the course, click „Anmelden“. To obtain answers to questions, press „Frage stellen“.

The course is open to everyone (depending on availability of space)!