



PERMACULTURE STEPS AND DESIGN

What is Permaculture?

Permaculture is an integration of many fields including horticulture, agriculture, architecture, forestry, and planning. The term refers to a combination of "permanent agriculture" and "permanent culture." A philosophy for sustainable living, permaculture presents ecological design strategies for every scale — from backyards to watersheds. Solutions are derived from nature, science, and traditional cultural knowledge. The design strategies are often practical, tailored to the local environment, and easy to install.



An edible urban yard designed with permaculture in mind . Image by Karen

Steps for Permaculture

1. Maintain Design

- Water : rainwater catchment, increase infiltration, stormwater features (swales, rain gardens)
- Access: road placement
- Structures: efficiently placed homes (relevant to sunlight, drainage patterns, and topography)

2. **Sector Analysis:** incoming energies to the property (sun, wind, rain along flood zones, fire danger, noise, chemical pollution from neighbouring sites, unpleasant views, pleasant views, wildlife areas

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3. **Zone Planning:** location placements for permaculture features; zones begin at the most managed area and range to natural unmanaged area.

- Zone 0:** House, dwelling or settlement
- Zone 1:** Areas needing continual observation and frequent visits
- Zone 2:** Less intensively managed areas
- Zone 3:** Occasional visited areas that still form part of the system
- Zone 4:** Wild food gathering, wood cutting for fuel, self-seeded trees
- Zone 5:** Natural unmanaged areas



The illustration above conceptualizes how one might design their permaculture zones; from most managed areas to least.

Illustration Source: trybackyardfarming.com

4. **Workflows:** understanding how to design the property based on use and flow. Consider diagram below.

5. Analysing and Connecting

Components: list all features of each permaculture component (think functionality).

Resource Factsheets: Plants 1