

## Design Assessment Form

<b>Diploma Apprentice's Name</b>	<b>Mark D'Cruz</b>
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Vila Pinheiro: A Sustainable Homestead</b>
<b>Design Number</b>	<b>3 of 10</b>
<b>Date Design Started</b>	<b>September 2023</b>
<b>Date Design Completed</b>	<b>December 21st 2023</b>
<b>Has the Design been implemented?</b>	<b>It is in the early stages of implementation, and includes a clear timeline for further steps up to 2026</b>
<b>Online Link to Design (if available)</b>	
<b>Type of Design (delete all that don't apply)</b>	<b>Land Based</b>
<b>Design Category (delete all that don't apply, more than one could apply)</b>	<b>Land &amp; Nature Stewardship</b>
<b>Name of Personal Tutor</b>	<b>Tom Henfrey</b>
<b>Ready for Presentation</b>	<b>Yes Ready</b>
<b>Name &amp; Signature of Assessing Tutor</b>	<b>Tom Henfrey</b>
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	<b>Jan 15th 2024</b>
<b>Date Apprentice started Diploma</b>	<b>July 4th 2023</b>

<b>If this design is included in the FPA2 sample assessed by a Senior Tutor:</b>
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Comments from Senior Tutor	
Name, Date & Signature of Senior Tutor	

## Section 1: Demonstrating Design Skills

		What's gone well?	What could have been done differently?
1a	The design uses an appropriate <b>design framework</b> or intentional process accurately (e.g does the design visit every step of the process)	GoSADIMET used and clearly explained at the outset.	The report occasionally jumps ahead and refers to design solutions during the site description, rather than introducing them as outcomes of the design process. One alternative could be to list desired facilities at the goal stage, key selected elements within the analysis, and report placement, and the reasons for this, during the design phase. The diagram on p2 omits Evaluation – is this on purpose?
1b	It utilises the <b>permaculture ethics</b> appropriately	The design evaluation includes assessment against the three ethics.	It could be also useful to visit the ethics earlier in the design: for example at goal-setting, providing a baseline for the use of the ethics during evaluation.  Point of information: "Fair Shares" was not a Bill Mollison concept; he phrased the third ethic as "Setting limits to resource use and consumption". Fair Shares is a later development, in part as a response to the controversy around population control. See essay (attached) for more discussion of the third ethic.

1c	The design uses <b>permaculture principles &amp; theory</b> that are appropriate to the situation	The design evaluation systematically addresses all 12 Holmgren design directives.	In future designs, you could experiment with different ways of using the principles: at different stages in the design, referring to particular principles at specific points, and exploring other principles beyond those of Holmgren, both established in permaculture and not.
1d	It uses a <b>variety of tools</b> to suit the needs of the situation / design brief	Several classic tools for land-based design - Zones and Sectors, Input-Output Analysis, SWOC - are clearly listed in the summary, and used appropriately during the design.	
1e	The design is intelligible, coherent and effective, <b>meeting the client's needs</b>	Site development goals are explicitly stated at the start of the design, which is for the apprentice's own homestead, and revisited comprehensively in the evaluation. Key steps are clearly laid out and justified, and work towards a final design that promises to realise the stated goals. A clear organisation into sections, with brief summaries and overviews at section transitions, makes the design process easy to follow.	I'd drop the hyperbole: it's more effective to let the (considerable) strengths of the design speak for themselves, highlighting strengths and weaknesses in a robust design evaluation. <b>Consider including an annual review schedule.</b>
1f	The <b>documentation is appropriate</b> to present to the clients and others	The design is excellently laid out and presented, including a Table of Contents and concise summary at the start, and well-illustrated with maps and diagrams. <b>Very well structured, thorough and systematic report which will make a good reference for yourself and others in the future.</b> At over 11,000 words, it is quite lengthy. I think this is largely justified given the scope of this design, and a reasonable resolution of the trade-off between brevity and inclusion of necessary detail. I found the report sufficiently readable and engaging to hold my attention throughout.	The main body of the report includes some peripheral material, such as the lengthy justification of the choice of the design process, which could be considered more briefly or put in appendices.  One or two typos: e.g. 'Porpety' in Fig. 7; 'Ledgend', 'Enery Management' in Fig. 15.

**Please fill in Section 2.1 or 2.2. Section 2.1 is more suitable for design processes such as SADIM, OBREDIM, CEAP whereas Section 2.2 is specifically for Design Web designs**

Section 2.1: Applying Permaculture Design (For Designs using processes such as SADIM, OBREDIM, CEAP)			
		What's gone well?	What could have been done differently?
2.1a	There is a clear explanation of how the <b>design brief was investigated</b> through surveying the situation and gathering the information.	There is a comprehensive overview of climatic, ecological, physical, infrastructural and other factors relevant to the design brief, onsite and in the immediate vicinity, accompanied by brief accounts of the methods employed.	Some diagrammatic overviews - e.g. charts of average rainfall and isolation by month - would vividly conveying large amounts of information without adding to the word count
2.1b	There is a clear explanation of how the <b>design decisions and solutions</b> were developed.	SWOC analysis and input-output analysis are employed to relate survey findings to the design brief, supporting decisions concerning placement of key elements in zones.	A Functions, Systems and Elements is an excellent integrating tool in designs of this type. In this specific case, it could have helped more fully explain and justify many choices of elements, which are not explicit in every case.
2.1c	The <b>solutions are relevant and appropriate</b> to the area and design brief.	<p>This overview design orients and gives context to future designs of sub-systems within the site, supported by detailed plans for implementation and maintenance that employ the Action Priority Matrix as an appropriate priority-setting tool. The implementation timeline is ambitious, but potentially realistic. It includes ongoing monitoring of progress against design goals and scope for future tweaking if necessary.</p> <p>The Action Priority Matrix is an excellent tool for deciding work priorities work and can be used for adapting them over time.</p>	Some specific choices of elements are not fully justified in the design, presumably due to the necessary compromise between length and detail. Clearer delineation of systems and sub-systems could help with this, allowing this high level design to focus on major site systems, clearly distinguished from their constituent elements.

### Section 3: Learning from and Developing your Permaculture Practice

		What's gone well?	What could have been done differently?
3a	The design report includes an <b>evaluation of the design's effectiveness</b> .	The design-level evaluation considers two main factors: alignment with permaculture ethics and (Holmgren) principles, and an assessment of main successes versus areas that show scope for improvement.	<p>Are there ways in which the design contradicts the ethics, or conflicts with the principles?</p> <p>More multidimensional evaluation tools (e.g. the third dimension added by PMI) can provide more nuanced insights, breaking out of a binary division into positive and negative.</p> <p>Use the SMARTER goals laid out at the beginning, the Action Priority Matrix (p22) and timeline (p23), to track long-term progress of the project. This could be done via an annual progress review and may also lead to further tweaks in your design.</p> <p>Include at least one review of the implementation in this report at a later date (e.g. at FPA stage).</p>
3b	There is a <b>critical reflection</b> on what you have learnt about the design processes, tools, ethics, principles and theory that you have used.	A brief reflection section includes a consideration of how using the GoSADIMET framework has influenced the apprentice's overall approach to his diploma pathway and general observations about the changes in outlook he is experiencing as he begins to weave permaculture more deeply into his life. Two annexes, on GoSADIMET and SMARTER Goals, provide detailed accounts of learning in relation these specific tools. Elsewhere in the design are occasional illusions to learning experiences within the design.	There's scope for a more detailed and specific reflection, with a more explicit focus on key learnings regarding design practice. You could also consider using specific reflective tools.
3c	The design shows how <b>design skills and competence have</b>	The apprentice's skills and competence have developed considerably through the previous versions of this design, which is the first	Are there any particular design skills or competences you feel you would find useful, and wish to acquire or strengthen, or specific learning

	<p><b>progressed</b> and some next steps for design practice.</p>	<p>submitted for assessment, though these are not directly visible in the report itself. The report includes a full list of intended diploma designs, based on insights derived from completion of this overall site design, plus a number of general points concerning future learning priorities.</p>	<p>steps you have planned or would like to undertake?</p>
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## Section 4: The Next Steps

<p>What are the apprentice's <b>next steps with this design</b>, towards its accreditation.</p>	<p>In my view, at this early stage in the diploma pathway, I consider this design ready for accreditation. It is of foundational importance to the apprentice's overall diploma pathway, whose other designs are anticipated to cover sub-systems at the Vila Pinheiro site and activities taking place there, and provides a solid platform for these.</p> <p>Given the provision for ongoing monitoring, evaluation and tweaking as the design is implemented, and designs for sub-systems within it mature, I think it would be a very interesting exercise to include in the final portfolio an account of implementation until that time, including attention to how the design has evolved over time. While not essential for accreditation, this would be a useful component of the reflective learning journal, or could be an addendum to the design itself.</p> <p>Given the central position of this design in the diploma pathway and portfolio as well as your personal life journey, I recommend that you review the design's progress at the FPA stage. This will be a chance to celebrate and share your success and to capture vital learning. Implementation will be at least partly documented in other designs within the portfolio, so a brief reference to those may be enough in this report.</p>
<p>What other <b>general or specific issues</b> might help with the apprentice's next steps, eg. to take into future designs.</p>	<p>An important development I have observed over the course of this design is in learning to trust the design process, allowing solutions to emerge from the process rather than trying to define them in advance. As you develop your confidence and skills in this respect even further, you will continue to reap the benefits in terms of the quality of your designs and your own experience of finding and expressing new capacities and inner resources. Central to this are the design-level evaluation and your ongoing reflections on your progress as a designer: you could consider challenging yourself more in both these areas in future designs.</p>

Any other comments about the <b>format</b> of the project presentation,	
<b>The highlight of this design for me is...</b>	Not just a vision for a sustainable homestead, it is the foundation of an ambitious plan for later life with permaculture at its core. Your passion for learning and willingness to extend yourself shine through in this design. I very much look forward to seeing how it develops, through your design work and at the site itself, in the future,

**Space for any other notes and comments to the apprentice**