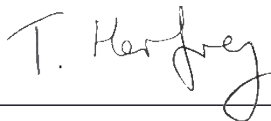




Design Assessment Form

Diploma Apprentice's Name	Mark D'Cruz
Date Apprentice started Diploma	July 4th 2023
Project Title	Regenerative Sylviculture
Design Number	8 of 10
Date Design Started	July 2024
Date Design Completed	17th April 2025
Has the Design been implemented?	Implementation is beginning
Online Link to Design (if available)	https://vila-pinheiro.com/diploma-journey
Type of Design (delete all that don't apply)	Land Based
Design Category (delete all that don't apply, more than one could apply)	Land & Nature Stewardship
Name of Personal Tutor	Tom Henfrey
Ready for Presentation	Yes Ready / Nearly Ready
Name & Signature of Assessing Tutor	Tom Henfrey 

Date of Assessment	<p>April 15th 2025</p> <p>Re-assessment April 17th 2025</p> <p>CE Observation08-05-25</p>

If this design is included in the FPA2 sample assessed by a Senior Tutor:

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 design framework or intentional process accurately (e.g does the design visit every step of the process)	GO-DREAM-ET is employed as a custom design framework based on DREAM, the US Forest Service's framework for regenerative silviculture, described in detail in a supporting appendix. The DREAM framework is preceded by additional steps of Goal-setting and Observation and followed by Evaluation and 'Transformation', adding additional reflexivity and so bringing it more in line with existing permaculture practice. The choice of framework is well-justified and all the steps are employed. I find it particularly interesting that the Design step is placed earlier than in most other frameworks, leading to a 'strategic', pattern-level design whose details are iteratively worked out in subsequent steps. In addition, Transformation takes the place of Tweak in many other frameworks, allowing the possibility of radical shifts in management strategy across different design cycles.	<p>The phased implementation strategy in Appendix 2 suggests that in practice the Resources, Experiment and Apply phases actually began following D/Design, rather than following the order in the acronym. It would be nice to see some direct consideration of this in the Reflection section.</p> <p>Mark's reply: <i>I've included a dedicated reflection on the real-life sequencing of the GODREAMET phases—particularly how Resources, Experiment, and Apply began immediately after Design, and how this reflects the adaptive nature of the framework in practice.</i></p> <p>T is first introduced as Transformation in the descriptions of the framework, in both the main report and appendix, but as Tweak when actually</p>

		<p>An extended reflection section now examines the non-linearity of the GODREAMET framework, accounting for the discrepancy noted between the order of steps in the description and that actually followed.</p> <p>The 'Transform' section has been revised to foreground the interplay between tweaking and transformation, also extending and deepening the reflection upon the design.</p> <p>Great to see adaptation of a “non-PC” framework to a PC design!</p>	<p>reached in the design.</p> <p>Mark's reply: <i>I've also clarified the meaning of 'T' as both Tweak and Transform, and expanded the reflection section to explore how these concepts interplay within the regenerative design process. It took to p.7 to understand what this design actually intends to do (its aim). Start your design with this statement/summary.</i></p> <p>In Appendix 2 you detail the framework. I would put the 2-line description of each stage (p.3 of Appendix 2) at the start of the corresponding stage in the main document, for clarity.</p>
1b	It utilises the permaculture ethics appropriately	<p>Clear contextual implication that ethics from both permaculture and Vrikshayurveda have influenced the design throughout.</p> <p>Use of the ethics now explicitly highlighted throughout the design.</p> <p>All good</p>	<p>Although the Reflection section indicates that the permaculture ethics were applied (along with Ayurveda), the report does not otherwise make any explicit reference to them, either individually or as a group.</p>
1c	The design uses permaculture principles & theory that are appropriate to the situation	<p>The design is a powerful integration of permaculture with traditional knowledge from Vrikshayurveda (an extensive topical description of which is provided in Annexure 1), rich in relevant theory (e.g. zones, polycultures/guilds, stacking, adaptive management, habitat restoration, nutrient cycles, understory enrichment, directed succession), compelling packaged in a sacred geometry framework.</p> <p>Page 16 indicates four Holmgren principles relevant to the Experimentation phase of the</p>	<p>At many points the influence of permaculture principles on the design can easily be inferred, and could be named explicitly.</p> <p>Mark's reply: <i>Permaculture ethics are now explicitly named and linked to specific interventions, alongside key principles that were previously implicit.</i></p>

		<p>design (in ways that seem to allude to a number of Mollison principles).</p> <p>Various Mollison and Holmgren principles are now explicitly referenced at points where they have influenced the design, along with others from Ayurveda and sacred geometry.</p> <p>Yes great to see this alliance</p>	
1d	It uses a variety of tools to suit the needs of the situation / design brief	<p>Numerous design tools are listed in both the overview and Appendix 3, and correctly applied at the relevant points in the design: SMART goals, seasonal logs, biodiversity surveys, photo monitoring, drone flyovers, zones, mutual support guilds, vertical layering, companion planting, enhance synergy and resilience, Vrikshayurveda practices (use of herbal inputs, Ayurvedic species, sacred groves), piloting, sprint planning, community reflection, key ecological indicators, pattern-based thinking, sacred geometry, Vedic seasonal rhythms.</p> <p>Agree</p>	
1e	The design is intelligible, coherent and effective, meeting the client's needs	<p>The design strategy is well-justified and plausible in relation to the goals, based on setting the foundation for ongoing cycles of adaptive management through iterative design.</p> <p>The expanded diagram on page 10 makes the spatial planning and its relationship to the functional units defined in the overall site design very clear.</p>	<p>It's not clear to me how the textual description of the spatial patterning (page 9) fits within the overall site design pictured on the same page; I'd find a visual depiction very useful.</p> <p>Mark's reply: <i>I've added a revised visual plan to illustrate better the spatial patterning and relationships across silvicultural zones, including annotations that explain the rationale behind the Silviculture Slope and other key site patches.</i></p> <p>Yes this has been an on-going issue for me (in designs #6 & #7), to differentiate where 1 ends and the other begins.</p>
1f	The documentation is appropriate to present to	Excellent organisation of the report and presentation of information, combining diverse	A contents page would be useful.

	the clients and others	<p>text layouts and formats with astute use of diagrams, photos, tables and colour schemes. The report includes an overview page and several supporting appendices and annexures, providing useful contextual information while keeping the design focussed and easy to follow.</p> <p>Table of contents added. Typos have been corrected.</p> <p>As a reader and designer, the design is inspiring, informative and a pleasure to read. As an assessor it's not quite so easy! Sifting through all the jewels of deep ecology and spirituality to find well defined process and design thinking has sometimes been a challenge, but once having dug through layers of ideas and information the design is revealed as one of passion, connection and integration.</p>	<p>A couple of typos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.17, seems to be a word missing in the first bullet point on pine culling, after "Selectively" (perhaps "cull"?). Also some strange capitalisation in the caption on the same page • On page 18, the hugelkultur experiment is labelled 2 rather than 3. • Scientific names (e.g. Pinus pinaster) are usually italicised <p>Mark's reply: <i>The typos and formatting inconsistencies you pointed out have also been corrected, including scientific name formatting and caption clarity.</i></p> <p>Contents page done OK and page numbers would help even more!</p>
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Please fill in Section 2.1 or 2.2.

Use Section 2.1 for all design frameworks. If the designer has used the Design Web then you may wish to use Section 2.2 instead

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 design brief was investigated through surveying the situation and gathering the information.	<p>SMART goals are articulated in several thematic areas (soil, biodiversity, land health, economy, pests & diseases, fire control), contextualised in the overall vision for the site.</p> <p>Site information is aggregated from several other designs, both at overview level (at the Observation stage), and in more detail under Resources.</p>	

		Agree	
2.1b	There is a clear explanation of how the design decisions and solutions were developed.	<p>The design is initially elaborated at a strategic level, organised through patterns derived from Sacred Geometry around concrete design interventions in several key areas: biodiversity enhancement, waste cycling, and ongoing monitoring for adaptive management. More specific interventions, based on a detailed resource inventory, intersect with other site designs concerning overall planning, water, food, animal husbandry, education and economy. The design is to be further refined in iterative fashion through bounded experiments in various areas - selective pine culling, polyculture cultivation, swales and hugelkultur.- and ongoing programme of active management, responsive to the emerging trajectory of the silvicultural system.</p> <p>The new annotated diagram on page 9 clearly indicates the management regimes envisaged for different patches, whose rationale and relationship to other design decisions is consequently far more clear.</p> <p>Agree</p>	<p>It's not clear to me on what criteria the area indicated in the diagram on page 8 was chosen as the 'Silviculture Slope', nor its relationship with other managed forest areas on the site: here I'd like to see a map with annotations explaining the nature and function of each distinct patch in the silviculture system, along with a rationale for its location.</p> <p>Mark's reply: <i>I've added a revised visual plan to illustrate better the spatial patterning and relationships across silvicultural zones, including annotations that explain the rationale behind the Silviculture Slope and other key site patches.</i></p> <p>Yes see above 1e</p>
2.1c	The solutions are relevant and appropriate to the area and design brief.	<p>Specified design solutions are consistent with the overall vision and with clear functional linkages with stated goals. Implementation is scheduled to take place in three main stages (infrastructure, tree planting, introduction of livestock), creating the context for the ongoing adaptive management regime. Detailed costings are provided for initial implementation during the first year, estimates of anticipated revenues support assessment of potential progress towards financial self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Agree</p>	

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 evaluation of the design's effectiveness .	<p>A brief summary evaluation covering three key points and leading to a general conclusion.</p> <p>The management plan also includes an ongoing monitoring regime.</p> <p>The design now includes an extensive evaluation employing 6 Thinking Hats (which fits it really well), along with a reflection on learnings from this evaluation process.</p> <p>Yes I love 6-hats (though you missed Green!)</p>	<p>I think a design of this complexity and quality merits a deeper evaluation; this is also a chance to extend yourself by trying an evaluation tool you haven't used before (6 Thinking Hats would be an interesting choice)</p> <p>Mark's reply: <i>To deepen the evaluation, I've incorporated the Six Thinking Hats framework, which provides a rich and multi-perspective lens to assess the design's strengths, risks, and emerging insights.</i></p> <p>You missed Green hat! (creative, alternative, etc.)</p>
3b	There is a critical reflection on what you have learnt about the design processes, tools, ethics, principles and theory that you have used.	<p>Really nice general reflection on the design as a process of pattern recognition.</p> <p>Addition of a long, deep and powerful reflection section, emphasising how dialogue with the design as a living process enables deeper co-creative dialogue with the land itself.</p>	<p>I think it's also worth building on and deepening the reflection, in particular to do justice to the exciting and important innovations in this design, particularly, the use of the GODREAMET design framework, integration of different knowledge systems, and the emergent nature of the design process.</p> <p>The framework has now been deeply reflected upon, still it would be good to hear about how you found different tools and if their use gave the results you wanted from each stage/phase.</p>
3c	The design shows how design skills and competence have progressed and some next steps for design practice.	The design is startlingly original: not least in inventing a completely new design framework, significantly different from any I've previously seen used in permaculture, along with the unique conceptual synthesis of patterns from permaculture, Vrikshayurveda and sacred	

		<p>geometry, and a highly courageous venture into emergent design. Amazing work.</p> <p>Agree with all of that. Other than a few minor points, noted above, that would help clarity of inter-connectedness, this design is a more balanced progression</p>	
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Section 4: The Next Steps

<p>What are the apprentice's next steps with this design, towards its accreditation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify whether T stands for Transformation or Tweak (or both). • Make explicit note of where and in what ways the design has made use of permaculture ethics. • Consider a deeper reflection, including some direct attention to learnings arising from the creation and application of a novel design framework. • Additional references to named permaculture principles that have influenced the design • Add more detail about the spatial planning and how it fits within the overall site design, ideally supported by design maps or other diagrammatic representation, and including descriptions and justifications for the overall design of each floristically distinct patch in the silviculture system • Deepen the evaluation and reflection <p>The revisions to the design have more than addressed all the above points, and it is now ready for accreditation. Well done!</p> <p>Good assessment of a complex design, and recommended edits nicely tweaked</p>
<p>What other general or specific issues might help with the apprentice's next steps, eg. to take into future designs.</p>	<p>As you extend the frontiers of permaculture through your increasingly original approach to design, try not to lose sight of the ethics and principles as key anchors, and take maximum advantage of evaluation and reflection as the points at which you harvest and share your learning.</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Would like to see your list of practical "top tips for designers"</p>
<p>Any other comments about the format of the project presentation,</p>	
<p>The highlight of this design for me is...</p>	<p>The way its emergent, organic nature so faithfully reflects the overall site philosophy, as beautifully summarised in the overview: "Vila Pinheiro emerges not only as a reforested landscape but as a living</p>

	classroom, where learning is grown leaf by leaf, and the forest becomes a teacher, healer, and community anchor.” Loved the use of 6-hats (even without Green); Permaculture Pattern Language Map (p42)
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Space for any other notes and comments to the apprentice	
Would be interesting to hear about any implementation of previous designs of in 1-5	