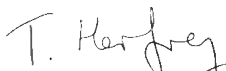




## Design Assessment Form

Diploma Apprentice's Name	Mark D'Cruz
Date Apprentice started Diploma	July 4th 2023
Project Title	Action Learning Pathway
Design Number	10 of 10
Date Design Started	July 1st 2023
Date Design Completed	May 13th 2025
Has the Design been implemented?	Yes
Online Link to Design (if available)	<a href="https://vila-pinheiro.com/diploma-journey">https://vila-pinheiro.com/diploma-journey</a>
Type of Design (delete all that don't apply)	<del>Land Based</del> / Non Land Based
Design Category (delete all that don't apply, more than one could apply)	Education & Culture / Health & Spiritual Well Being / Land & Nature Stewardship /
Name of Personal Tutor	Tom Henfrey
Ready for Presentation	Yes Ready
Name & Signature of Assessing Tutor	Tom Henfrey 

<b>Date of Assessment</b>	<b>May 28th 2025</b> <b>CE Observation 02-07-25</b>

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

<b>Comments from Senior Tutor</b>	
<b>Name, Date &amp; Signature of Senior Tutor</b>	

**Section 1: Demonstrating Design Skills**

		<b>What's gone well?</b>	<b>What could have been done differently?</b>
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)	The Design Web is used appropriately and effectively, in two main design cycles, respectively covering the first and second halves of the diploma (pre- and post-IPA). Each anchor point is visited at least once, most twice. Transitions between anchor points are flagged in many cases, showing that use of the framework has been organic rather than prescriptive, letting the sequence of anchor points flow out of the evolution of the design. A preamble to the main design report explains the choice of framework and the apprentice's previous experience with it. Deep and thorough use of DW. I would love to share this with Looby for her feedback/reflection....	....though it is so long she may cringe at the thought, though may not be able to resist....
1b	It utilises the <b>permaculture ethics</b> appropriately	Ethics (Earth Care, People Care, Fair Share) are flagged at appropriate moments throughout	It's also useful to consider the relationships between different ethics, and among all three: how

		the design <b>Agree</b>	they clash or complement each other, and design strategies that can transform tensions between ethics into synergies. I find it useful to consider the intersection point where all three meet as a compass towards which the design continually strives; this can be a valuable design tool in its own right. <b>Good point</b>
1c	The design uses <b>permaculture principles &amp; theory</b> that are appropriate to the situation	The design draws extensively upon named permaculture principles, especially Holmgren, along with principles from Ayurveda and the apprentice's own Ma-Ke bonsai way principles (combining permaculture, ayurveda and bonsai) <b>Agree</b>	
1d	It uses a <b>variety of tools</b> to suit the needs of the situation / design brief	Many (in fact most) anchor points are themselves used as design tools - in particular Patterns (also repeatedly employed as a tool within other anchor point), Principles (also extensively used as design tools throughout), Limits and Vision. Specific tools: goal-setting, asset mapping, visual journey map, action plans/activity schedules, priority-setting, ritual celebration, <b>Yes, and there is a massive list of all tools (as well as ethics and principles) used over the portfolio (and some not used) in Appendix 1</b> <b>Great to see how the list of tools details which phase/stage of the design cycle they can be used in (though sometimes it can be several, e.g. 6-hats, that can be used in survey, decision making/design, implementation and evaluation/reflection!)</b>	There's perhaps an over-reliance on the anchor points as design tools in their own right, and (it appears to me) ad hoc creation of bespoke tools within them: you have a great toolkit of formal design tools, and can always draw on one or more of these within any anchor point.  It would be useful (probably for you as well as readers and assessors) to have a list of the design tools employed in the opening summary. <b>Note: Principle 0 (listed in Appendix 1 along Ethics) is about the part of Indigenous wisdom in design (at that place) rather than natural systems – tough obviously they are connected. See <a href="#">this link</a></b>
1e	The design is intelligible, coherent and effective, <b>meeting the client's needs</b>	Yes: great use of cross-referencing and flagging transitions between anchor points to show the incremental progression of the design; a vivid account of your diploma journey that is a	<b>Having the pages showing integration between the different designs at VP from #7 (pp 26&amp;27) would have been perfect!</b>

		pleasure to read and easy to follow. <b>Agree</b>	
1f	The <b>documentation is appropriate</b> to present to the clients and others	Very nicely structured and presented, with layouts, text formats, colours, images all used to great effect. <b>Agree</b>	At 97 slides, it's quite long - a pleasure to read, but a lot of work for the assessing tutor! <b>No comment...</b>

## Section 2.2: Applying Permaculture Design (For Designs using the Design Web)

	What's gone well?	What could have been done differently?
<b>Vision</b> What qualities did the vision have? Was it specific, grounded, ambitious?	The initial vision (p8), building on a longer-standing dream of living on the land (p7), is clear and bounded: to build a bonsai nursery and teaching centre. This was later (post-PDC, in 2023) translated into concrete goals, pulling together the initial visits to the Reflection, Limits, Ideas and Helps anchor points and forming the foundation for the first five diploma designs (pp20-21). Vision is revisited in early 2025 at the outset of the second design cycle (pp50-53), leading to an expanded set of goals, for the coming two years and ongoing, showing an evolution from practical through spiritual to relational orientation.	
<b>Limits</b> How were the limits paid attention to in the design? Did they become functions of the design?	Limiting factors in various categories (material, emotional/psychological, social/systemic, inertia), are considered early in the design (pp10-14), related to several permaculture ethics and principles. A second visit to the Limits anchor point following completion of most other designs identifies ecological and infrastructural constraints to their implementation, translating them into design strategies that will be applied during their ongoing development (pp62-64).	More explicit and direct interconnection of limits, functions and goals could have added focus to what is a very complex and multi-layered design.

<p><b>Helps</b> Were external and internal resources identified? Were the designers motivation's explained?</p>	<p>Various resources - personal, internal and external - were mobilised in support of the new permaculture-inspired ideas and vision (pp18-19). Later in the design, once the final shape of the portfolio became clear, various relationships of mutual reinforcement among different designs became clear, along with a sense of what personal assets have emerged through working on specific designs and key external resources that have helped over the course of the diploma as a whole, including several permaculture principles that have exerted particular influence along the journey (pp58-61).</p>	
<p><b>Patterns</b> What patterns were used in the design?</p>	<p>Patterns are a key design tool, employed at several anchor points. The first visit to the Patterns anchor point itself uses patterns to identify affinities between permaculture and bonsai, and to understand relationships between people and behaviour, landscape and self (p22), and relates current helpful and unhelpful patterns to natural patterns that can guide the design (succession, layers, guilds, edge, networks) (pp23-25). The second identifies beneficial natural and attitudinal patterns over the course of the diploma for integration into future design practice (pp65-67).</p>	
<p><b>Ideas</b> How well were ideas gathered and used? Do you have any ideas to add to the design?</p>	<p>A range of ideas are gathered at the outset, inspired by attending a PDC and related to permaculture ethics and principles, from big and visionary to small and practical (pp15-17). A second visit to the Ideas anchor point during the second design cycle identifies a series of future possibilities, both practical and more speculative/ambitious, including some related to design practice (pp68-71).</p>	
<p><b>Principles</b></p>	<p>The design draws upon both permaculture</p>	

What principles were used in the design? How were they used?	principles and the apprentice's own Ma-Ke Bonsai way principles, both on a punctual basis throughout the design and on two visits to the Principles anchor point. On the first of these, eight Holmgren design principles are employed to evaluate current conditions and identify new strategies, and on this basis several strategic directions identified (pp26-29). The second (pp54-56) focuses the vision and goals for the second half of the diploma, with several Holmgren and Mollison principles, along with Pause (presumably from Cultural Emergence) used for stock-taking and critical reflection concerning the current situation and to identify possible routes forward, guiding the subsequent assessment of Helps (p57, 61).	
<b>Integration</b> Were the key needs / purpose / functions clearly identified? Did the design feel cohesive? How did it bring together information from the other anchor points?	The choice of design topics for the first half of the diploma portfolio emerges clearly and coherently around the material covered at earlier anchor points, together forming a cohesive whole (pp31-32). A second visit to the Integration anchor point attempts to weave the portfolio into an integrated system, listing key needs and systems to support them, clustering designs according to emergent/collective functions and specifying needs for integration across different designs and mechanisms to address them (pp72-76). Yes considering the Integration AP is in many ways the most important (by Looby's own admission), pulling it all together and equating to the "Design" stage of SADIMET etc. I was pleased to see 2 visits!	A summary statement that clearly identifies needs and/or functions identified at earlier anchor points and how each design addresses them would be a useful addition to the first visit to this anchor point. Agree – the first visit didn't really do it for me so was happy to see the 2 <sup>nd</sup> visit.  The second visit pulls the design together wonderfully. I'd love to see a visual illustration of this, as a systems map. See comment above 1e
<b>Action</b> How are the plans laid out? How realistic do they seem?	A Big Picture Action Plan (pp34-35) both reviews retrospectively the completion of designs 1-5 and includes a strategic plan for their implementation. Action also sets in motion the second design cycle with the rapid completion of Designs 6-9	

	and an advance plan, until summer 2028, for their implementation, accompanied by an inventory of required resources and expected yields (pp46-49).	
<b>Momentum</b> What was used to keep momentum, or fulfil ongoing 'maintenance' needs?	Momentum builds from the Pause and Appreciation at the centre of the design (pp41-43), through a set of four guiding patterns or principles, strategies to maintain flow, tracking and tweaking tools, collaboration mechanisms and rituals timed in relation to seasons and events, and finally translated into strategies for action (p44).	
<b>Appreciation</b> How were rituals of appreciation incorporated into the design?	Appreciation is used for stock-taking and reorientation as (in combination with Pause) one half of the central hinge of the design (pp38-40). A second visit to the Appreciation anchor point has a strong integrating function, identifying a number of several regular appreciation practices that will be part of the ongoing design strategy (pp77-80).	
<b>Reflection</b> (within the design) How has the current situation been reflected upon?	A reflection on the implications of becoming a land steward, considered holistically, very early in the design (pp9-10).	
<b>Pause</b> How did the ideas for pause enhance the design / meet any of the functions?	A pause following completion of five designs is an integral step, organised following permaculture ethics and principles and supporting key functions relating to pacing, goal-setting, reflection and appreciation (pp35-37).	

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

	<b>What's gone well?</b>	<b>What could have been done differently?</b>
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3a	The design report includes an <b>evaluation of the design's effectiveness</b> .	The closing section 'Design Evolution' includes a multi-dimensional of the design's effectiveness, in terms of the evolution of the apprentice's design practice over the course of the diploma as a whole (pp90-96). <b>Agree</b>	
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.	The final visits to the Reflection and Pause anchor points serve an overall reflective function, assessing learning both through the ALP design itself and over the course of the diploma (pp80-86). The design closes with a poetic reflection on the designer you have become (p97). <b>Agree, thorough and deep reflection</b>	
3c	The design shows how <b>design skills and competence have progressed</b> and some next steps for design practice.	Amazing progress over these two years, and great to see it all documented and reported. Later parts of the design explicitly flag, strategies (pp62-64), patterns (pp66-67) and ideas (pp68-71) for future design work, culminating in a revised vision for the Vila Pinheiro project that has emerged through the completion of these ten designs (pp87-89). Impressive stuff! <b>Agree this is a significant tome and great to see how Mark has developed and applied his skills and wisdom</b>	

## Section 4: The Next Steps

What are the apprentice's **next steps with this design**, towards its accreditation.

In its own right, the design is ready for accreditation.

It might be the place for the type of summary document requested in assessments of designs 6-9, showing their respective boundaries and inter-relationships, though this could also be in a separate document (also see my final point under Integration above).

**Yes see above 1e – there are 2 pages in #7 that have been added to address the need for an overview of all the nested designs within VP that could have gone here. Otherwise, all good! (I'm not**



	suggesting that the aforementioned needs to be done in order to accredit – the design and indeed whole portfolio has now achieved this imo)
What other <b>general or specific issues</b> might help with the apprentice's next steps, eg. to take into future designs.	You've noted collaboration as a significant current limitation: overcoming this by sharing your wisdom and design practice through the Ma-Ke Bonsai Way community will open up ever wider horizons of possibility as you continue to expand the edges of permaculture philosophy and practice. Definitely try to do some small designs! They will be more transferable to aid others' permaculture learning
Any other comments about the <b>format</b> of the project presentation,	Format is clear as with other designs
<b>The highlight of this design for me is...</b>	Your relentless commitment to continuing your own learning throughout your diploma journey and beyond, captured as rich layers of insight that continually through a design that is truly alive. Agree, and congratulations this is an appropriate conclusion to an intense portfolio! What stands out for me is your competence at navigating different frameworks and at using a variety of design tools to achieve the goals of each design and the portfolio as a whole. Well done!

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

Congratulations on this major step towards completing a remarkable and meticulously documented diploma journey. It's an honour and delight to be accompanying you.

Ditto!