

Session 2: Input Output Analysis

Context: Introduction to Permaculture Design course, early on.

Duration: 45 minutes

Aims: To explain the 'Analysis of Elements' design method, and, using a simple group exercise, develop this into an opportunity for students to uncover some permaculture principles.

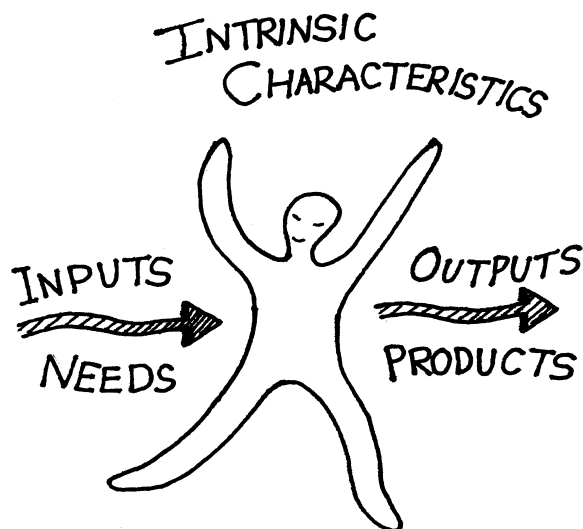
Learning outcomes: By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- Use the Analysis of Elements method
- Explain why observation is crucial to the design process
- Explain what concepts such as pollution, extra work and relative location mean in a Permaculture context
- Explain why creating beneficial relationships is crucial to permaculture design.

Method & timings:

2 minutes: introduction.

Introduce the session by drawing a large person on the whiteboard or flip chart with accompanying text:



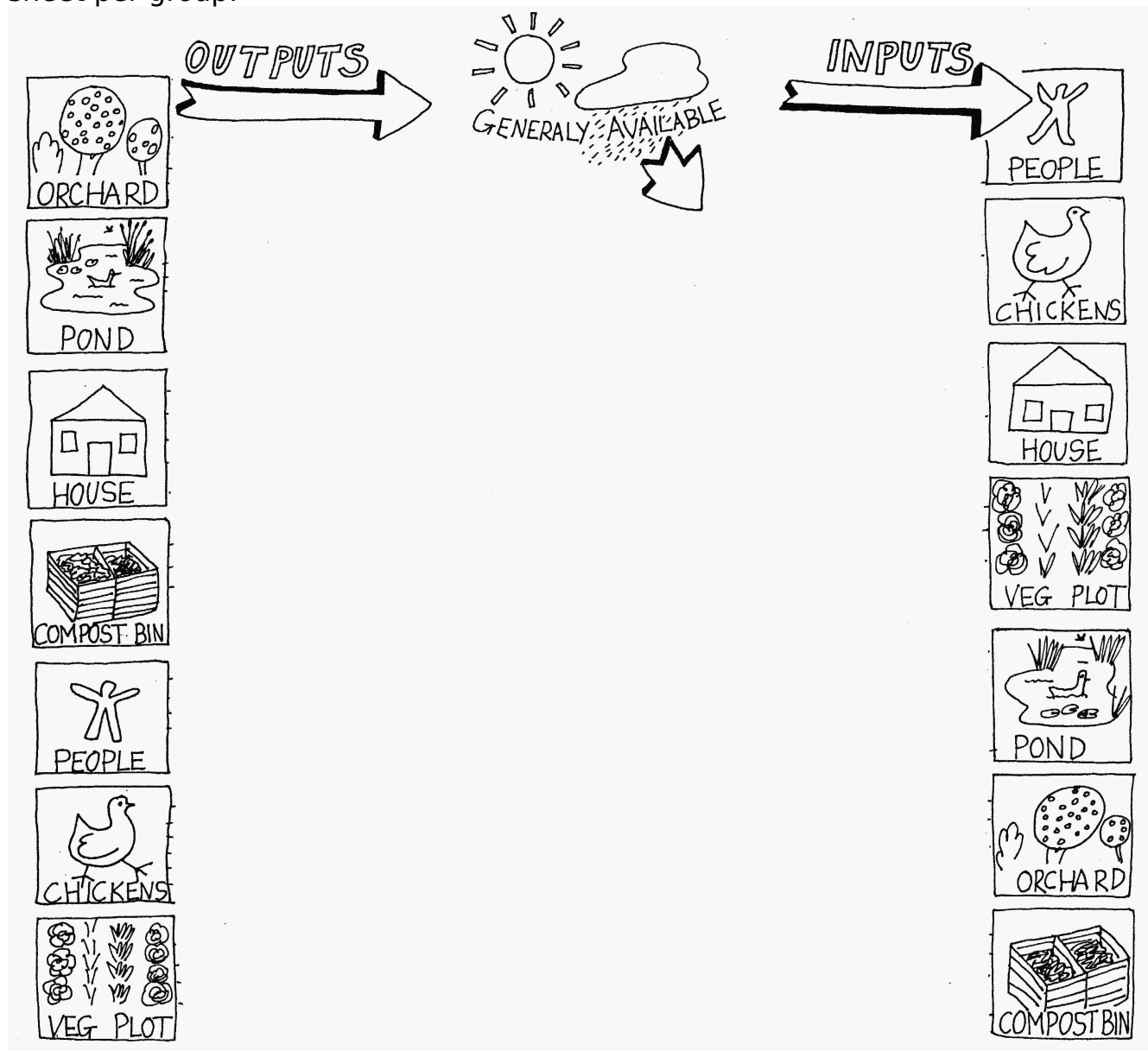
10 minutes: whole group exercise:

Ask the students to shout out suggestions for inputs/needs, outputs/products and finish with intrinsic characteristics, and add these to the drawing.

Question: Ask students how this method of analysis could be useful in design and map all suggestions without comment.

25 minutes: small group exercise:

Split the students into small groups and produce one pre-drawn grid on a flip chart sheet per group:



Ask each group to spend 5 minutes filling in the outputs for each element, as for the human. Next ask them to spend 5 minutes filling in the inputs. Finally ask them to match the outputs to the inputs.

When they've finished, ask them for their observations and what they've learned and map them on the whiteboard. This session should help to point out concepts such as pollution, extra work, multiple functions for each element, importance of relationships, relative location, cycling, automatic systems.

Resources: White board, markers, pre-drawn grid on flip chart paper.