

Dante' DiGiacomo

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*Can Permaculture Design Save the World?*

This project will create a blueprint for an eco-settlement in the South Florida area that will house a total of ten people on a five acre plot of land. Using a combination of permaculture design principles and simple tech solutions, this settlement will be capable of supporting its inhabitants “off the grid”, or with no reliance on outside public utilities. More specifically, the settlement will be capable of supporting its inhabitants by producing a minimum of 80% of its resources on site using only all natural farming techniques, proper water management, companion planting and various other techniques. Instead of using modern agricultural practices that damage the land in the long term, all of the principles that will be used in this design will allow the land to heal over time while still producing most of what is needed for any inhabitants.

This project is significant because all of the principles used are time-tested and capable of adapting to any type of environment. The principles used do not have a steep learning curve. In fact, anyone ranging from a kindergartener to a 90-year-old will be able to learn and teach the required skill sets in as little as one week. By contrast, in order to fully utilize GMO crops, first a scientist must spend a minimum of eight years getting degrees in various fields of study to even reach a textbook understanding of the exact science. In addition, several years must be spent in sterile lab environments to see the results of complex experiments that may not even be used, thus wasting time, money, and resources.

I am certain that this will be successful because similar goals have already been reached by people around the world without access to modern utilities. The only major difference is that my approach will be documented scientifically, and show that not only is this way of life healthy,

but also easy and practical. Because of this, my project will bring permaculture design into the spotlight, and will hopefully see widespread adoption. This will result in cities designed with the intent to live with nature instead of conquering it, and will hopefully aid the earth in healing for future generations.