

Identifying guiding principles for **RESILIENT**

LANDSCAPING



By Marijke Honig, 1 November
2018

1. GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Conserve water on site

Practice: Retain as much water as possible on site

- maximise infiltration with permeable surfaces
- harvest rainwater – in storage tanks, detention ponds
- ‘plant the rain’ in the soil (swales, rain gardens etc)
- Only non potable water for irrigation and MEASURE it
- design the landscape with **hydrozones**
- a 5-10cm thick layer of mulch

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Involve local community & stakeholders

Practice: Design people-centered landscapes

- Consult on what the needs and desires are
- Participative design, discuss maintenance
- Design for flexibility, changing needs



3. GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Create biodiverse systems

Practice:

- Create different habitats
- Include a wide diversity of plants that offer food, nesting sites and shelter to many animal species
- Enable natural processes
e.g. decomposition, carbon cycling
- Use **seed** to maximise genetic diversity, contributes to resilience

'Biological diversity = the variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are a part'



4. GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Anticipate change, create resilient systems

Practice:

- Include **passive methods of watering** and infiltration in the event of water / power failures
- Design multiple ways to do something, so if one system fails, there is a **backup**
- **Use resilient plants** that can tolerate a wide range of conditions and bounce back after an extreme event

5. GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

Minimise the carbon footprint of the landscape

Practice: Creative use of local resources, reduce inputs

- use available resources on site – stone, slope, felled wood, soil etc
- excellent management during construction to avoid damage / contamination of natural resources (soil, rock, trees, etc)
- use green manures / organic matter and EM / mycorrhizae to improve soil fertility – avoid importation of large volumes of compost

6. GUIDING PRINCIPLE: Create circular systems

Practice: Minimal inputs, zero waste

- **Recycle on site:** resources such as water and organics
- Allow or facilitate **biological processes**



6 Guiding principles

1. Conserve water on site
2. Involve local community & users
3. Create biodiverse systems
4. Anticipate change: create resilient systems
5. Minimise the carbon footprint of the landscape
6. Create circular systems



What do you think?