



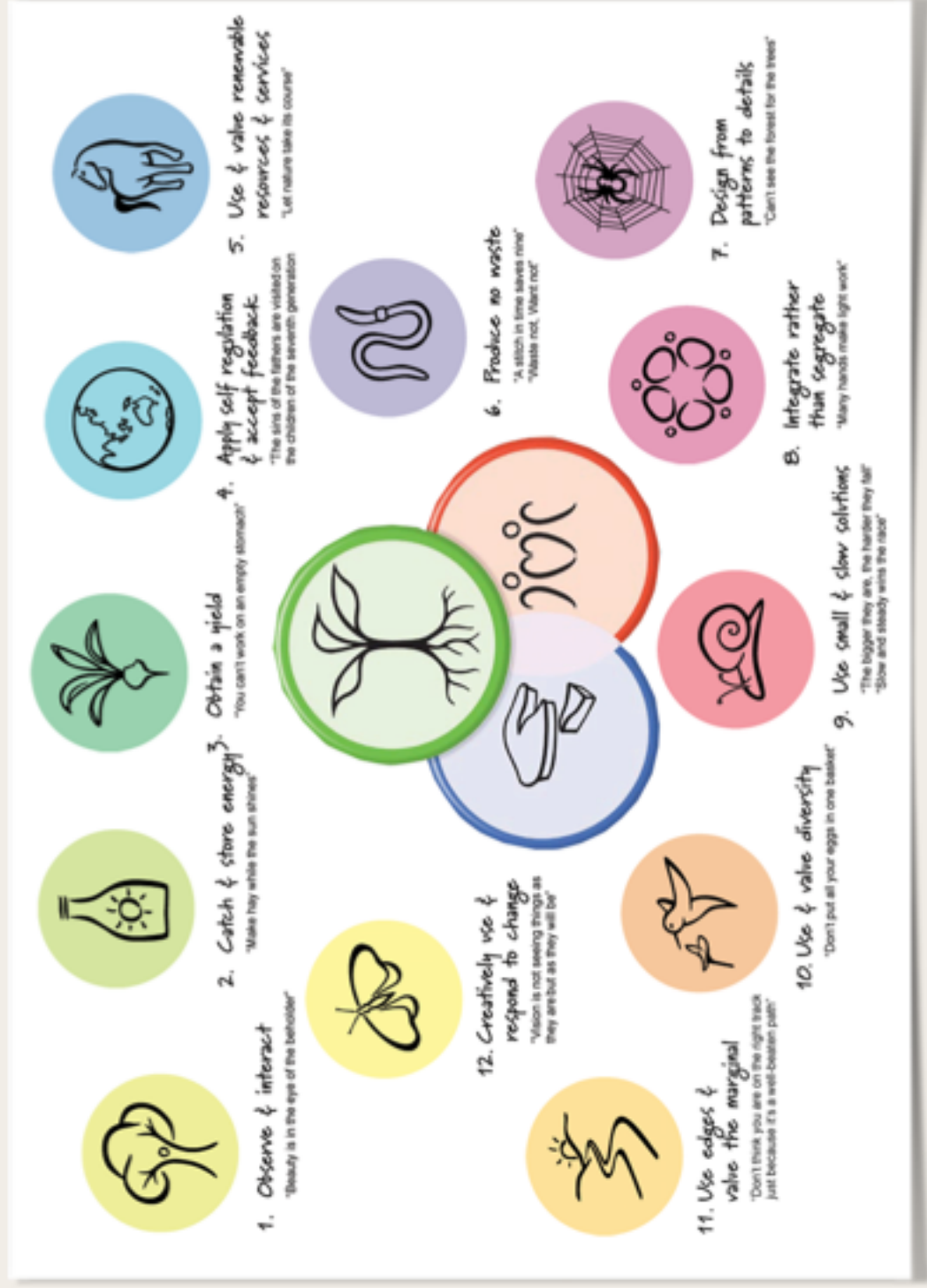
Permaculture and Cooperative Living

practical resilience through ecological design

What is permaculture?

- ❖ “permanent agri/ culture”
- ❖ a set of design practices for regenerative and resilient living based on patterns and cycles in the natural world
- ❖ *“Permaculture is a philosophy of working with, rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than protracted and thoughtless labor; and of looking at plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single product system” . -Bill Mollison*

What is Permaculture?



Why is it applicable to co-ops?

- ❖ everyone is empowered to observe and engage critically with their spatial surroundings
- ❖ efficiency, sustainability, and quality of life value for busy and stressed students
- ❖ living by our values as co-ops
- ❖ “the problem is the solution”: challenging problematic patterns or areas as design flaws rather than inevitable
- ❖ appropriate technology: don’t need \$ to be sustainable

Challenges in Co-op Design

- ❖ high turnover for student co-ops
- ❖ limited finances
- ❖ students' time is precious
- ❖ lack of impetus for change/
intervention

Challenges in Co-ops

- ❖ high turnover
 - ❖ limited finances
 - ❖ students' time is precious
 - ❖ lack of impetus for change / intervention
- opportunity to change patterns
- DIY, low-tech solutions
- low-maintenance projects
- pick strategic leverage points rather than exhausting ones

“Zoning” Your House

- ✦ **Zone 0 (yellow):** primary common spaces

- ✦ **Zone 1 (orange):** secondary common spaces

- ✦ roof

- ✦ patio

- ✦ front steps

- ✦ **Zone 2: (red):** garden or yard space

- ✦ raised beds

- ✦ tended landscaping

- ✦ unused outdoor space

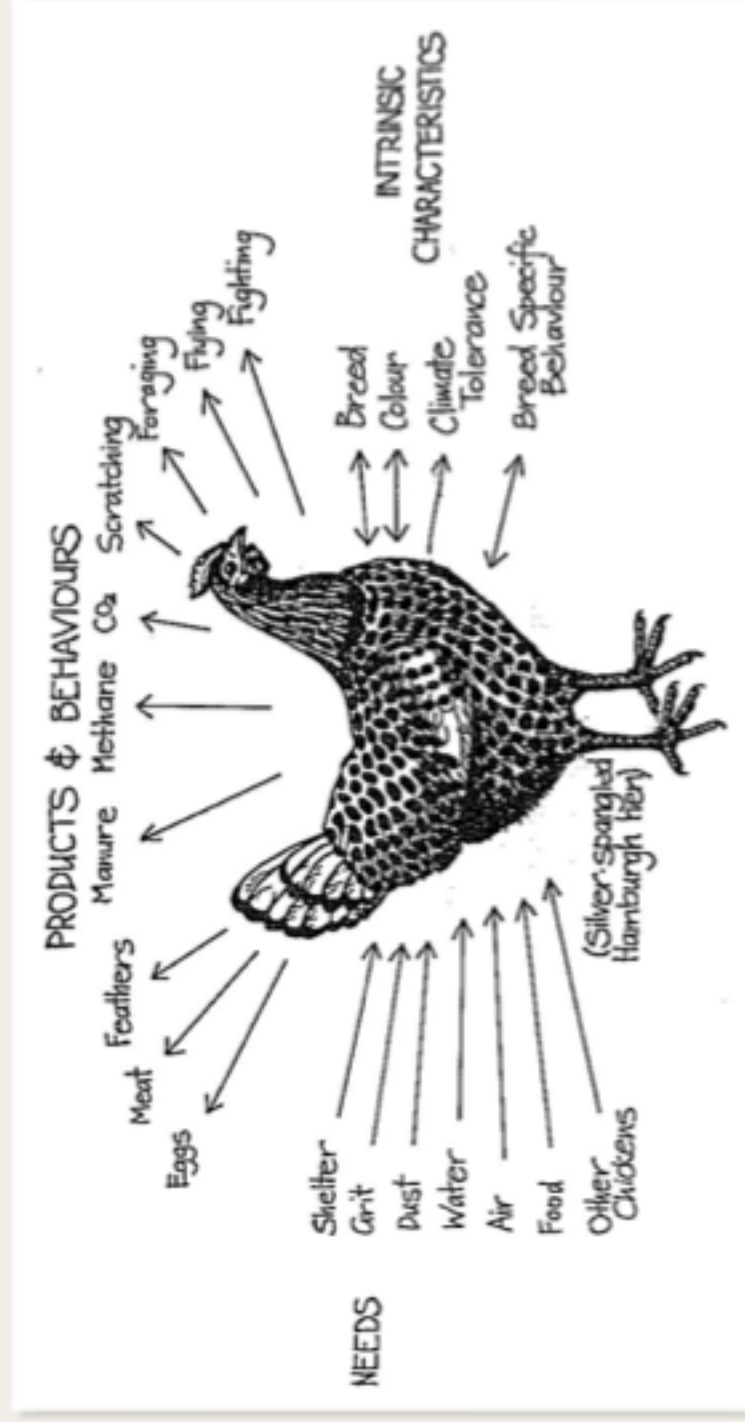
“Zoning” Your House

❖ What are your resources?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ❖ trash/recycling (0, 1) | ❖ hoses/spigots (2+) |
| ❖ dinner tables and chairs (0, 1) | ❖ composting/mulching (2+) |
| ❖ study tables (0, 1) | ❖ chickens or other backyard animals (3+) |
| ❖ garden crops (2+) | ❖ signs/posters/workshops/
house info (all zones) |
| ❖ herbs (2+) | |

Maximizing Output

- ❖ What are your major inputs as a house?
- ❖ What are your major outputs?



Generating Change

- ❖ What are your house's problem areas?
- ❖ How can we see these problems as informing solutions?
- ❖ How could you intervene?

The Process

- ❖ Observe
- ❖ Notice patterns and identify the issue
- ❖ Brainstorm solutions
- ❖ Ask for community feedback
- ❖ Implement tactical intervention
- ❖ Re-evaluate
- ❖ Make changes and make permanent

Key Practices

Rainwater Harvesting

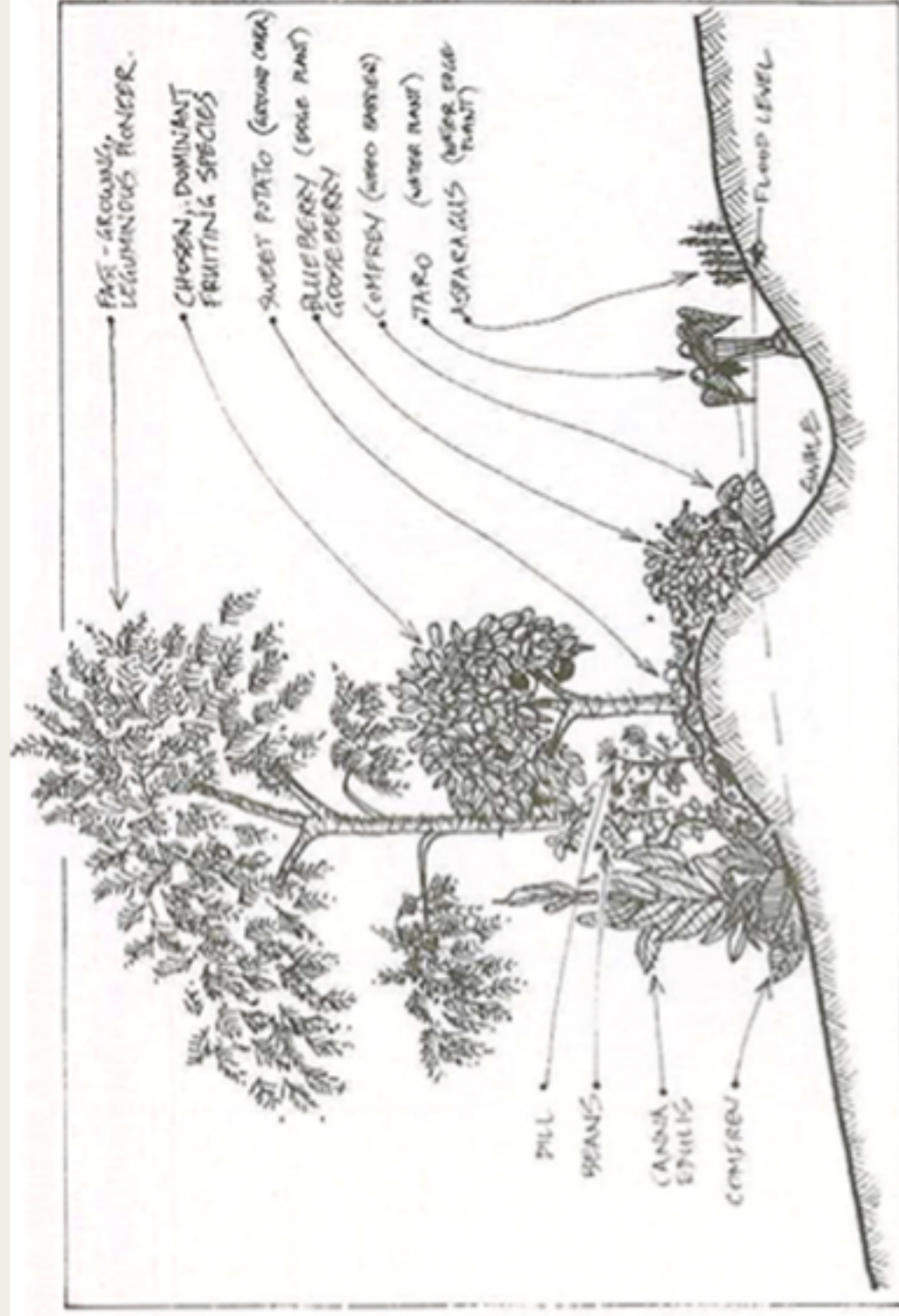


FIGURE 6.4 Trees planted off swale bank to take advantage of wet-season water.

Efficient Waste Reduction



Temperature Mitigation



Thank you!

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