

Seed banks are one way that Permacouture Institute supports biodiversity. Our "Seeds to Sew" program is working with public libraries and Transition SF to support community seed banks. We hope this to be a model for every public library in America.



Welcome to Permacouture Institute's first newsletter!
We're excited to share what we've been up to and hope you will be become part of the Permacouture Seed Funding Family.

Dear Friends of Permacouture,

Greetings on Winter Solstice and Happy New Year! In this first newsletter we are happy to announce the launch of our new blog! Now we can share images and stories of Permacouture projects and other groundbreaking work at www.permacouturepress.tumblr.com.

When we first started Permacouture Institute, there was barely a whisper of eco and fashion being spoken viably in the same phrase. We have worked to fill this need as a non-profit solely in support of a more ecologically sound path for one of our basic material needs, textiles and clothing. We see this as our part of the worldwide effort to create a sustainable future.

In order to continue our work we need financial support and invite you to be a part of our efforts. See below for ways to help us thrive and grow in the new year.

TAX- DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS OF \$100 OR MORE BY JANUARY 31ST, 2011 WILL RECEIVE A SIGNED COPY OF SASHA'S NEW BOOK, *THE HANDBOOK OF NATURAL PLANT DYES!* -Published by Timber Press, January 12th, 2011.



It has been an amazing and diverse year. Permacouture has had an increasing presence in the United Kingdom where we collaborated with the social art collective, Avant Gardening to teach eco-literacy workshops in low-income communities. Permacouture also put on a Dinner to Dye For as part of a season of Sustainable Fashion events in Devon at the Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World.

In the United States, Permacouture has continued to collaborate with the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden. We worked closely with California College of the Arts Center for Art and Public Life to provide mentorship for textile students. We taught classes for environmental and slow food non-profits, and universities to expand the realm of eco-literacy for fibers, dyes and fashion. We worked directly with young farmers and gardeners, sharing ideas and resources.

In the coming months, Sasha and Katelyn are speaking at the International Symposium and Exhibition on Natural Dyes in La Rochelle, France presenting on "Eco-literacy, Slow Textiles and Natural Colorants." We will continue to use our "Dinners to Dye For" as a useful tool for eco-literacy and arts education in both the US and the UK and build our network and resource base highlighting what slow food and slow fashion can learn from the other.

To our friends who supported us with financial or in-kind donations, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We want to continue to be of service to our ever growing community of professional and emerging designers, artists, educators, ecologists, and activists in our mission of promoting "slow fashion and slow textiles" to creatives and consumers. But for this we need your help!

Please help us grow and fund our goals in 2011. See below for ways to donate and stay in touch!

With Many Blessings and Warmest Wishes in the New Year!

Sasha Duerr and Katelyn Toth-Fejel
Co-directors, Permacouture Institute

"Every once and awhile I come across an idea or organization that blows me away with their far reaching goals, forward-thinking plans, and originality. I am talking about world-changing, planet-saving thoughts and actions.

The Permacouture Institute is one of those organizations."

-EcoSalon

***The synthetic dye industry is the #1 polluter of fresh water on the planet.**

***It is estimated that more than 1 million tons of textiles are thrown away every year. (Many of those textiles contain synthetic dyes and fibers-chemicals that do not break down!)**

We all share the same resources of water, air, and land.

Regenerative design is about participating with the processes in nature, and engaging its innate creativity and intelligence.

Design matters.

Beyond Sustainable. Regenerative.



COMPOST TO COLOR TO COMPOST- Yarns dyed and cloth woven from one week's worth of kitchen waste! These textiles can then be composted.

Educating and Inspiring Through ‘Slow’



Photograph by Ryan Manton

“Dinner to Dye For” at the Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World in Devon, UK. In an all-day workshop and dinner participants dyed fabric using foraged plant material from the surrounding forest and farms. The workshop was part of CCANW’s *Fashion Footprints*, a program of events and exhibitions bringing together experts and young designers to consider the complexities of sustainable fashion.

“A ‘slow’ perspective is about true care and stewardship for both nature and culture. Slowness doesn’t refer to how long it takes to make or do something, but is about awareness, accountability, and responsibility for our everyday actions, and supporting a more fulfilling experience for ourselves and for our community through a process of full participation. Slow fashion and textiles engage us in the process just as much as the product.”

-Sasha Duerr, Founder and Co-Director, Permacouture Institute

WE OFFER SEASONAL WORKSHOPS IN SLOW TEXTILES, REGENERATIVE DESIGN, AND NATURAL DYES.

FOLLOW PERMACOUTURE ON [FACEBOOK](#) OR CONNECT WITH US ON [NEWS + EVENTS](#) FOR SCHEDULES OF CLASSES, LECTURES AND EVENTS.



Results from a hands-on workshop with slow textiles and natural dyes with the Nordic Initiative for Clean and Ethical and the Danish Fashion Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark.

YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION CAN BE MADE EASILY BY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD BY DONATING HERE.

Your generous contribution will help us to accomplish sustainable projects and ensure that we can continue to develop new programs in 2011.

\$50 allows us to purchase materials for eco-literacy and arts workshops for under-funded and low-income schools and communities.

\$250 allows us to create curriculum packets on “Eco-Literacy and Slow Textiles and Fashion” for designers and educators.

\$1000 helps to provide travel funding to present our work and to share valuable resources and living examples of regenerative design to communities beyond our own.

\$2500 OR MORE will provide adequate seed funding to support Permacouture Institute’s growth and sustainability in the New Year.

\$5,000 will completely underwrite the Green Gala Fashion Show on June 18th, 2011. This show will be curated by Permacouture Institute to highlight talented designers creating innovative regenerative designs and will be inspired by the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley’s collection of plants from around the world.

Right: Images from UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley’s Green Gala 2009.



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