

Schumacher apprenticeship in Sustainable Horticulture

Learning by doing

how contemplative enquiry transforms learning

Dartington Hall Estate _

- 1920 - Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst
- experiment in rural regeneration.
- progressive forms of education, art and agriculture.
- courses are deeply grounded in an ecological and holistic worldview
- transform the way we live and work in the world.



Schumacher college

- E.F. Schumacher *Small is Beautiful*
- appropriate technology. (open source)
- small-scale, decentralized, energy-efficient, environmentally sound, and locally controlled
- 1990 by Satish Kumar, John Lane and others

Schumacher college

- international centre for
 - nature-based education,
 - personal transformation
 - collective action

interactive, experiential and participatory learning, practical skills and strategic thinking required to face the current and future ecological, economic and social challenges



College Pedagogy

- Whole person learning
- Experiential – learning by doing
- Peer to peer learning
 - learners are actively involved as a co-creators.
 - not passive receiver of knowledge
 - expected to be an active learner seeking out solutions to questions



Whole person learning

- Immersive model
- Live within a community
- Rhythm of morning meeting; work groups; gardening; lunch; gardening; free time or work groups then supper and evening – free or often activity/talk/fire



Matthew Crawford

- Without the opportunity to learn through the hands, the world remains abstract and distant, and the passions for learning will not be engaged.”



Apprenticeship

- 6 month residential programme; April – October
- Deliberately weighted more to the practical than the theoretical
- Includes PDC



Areas covered

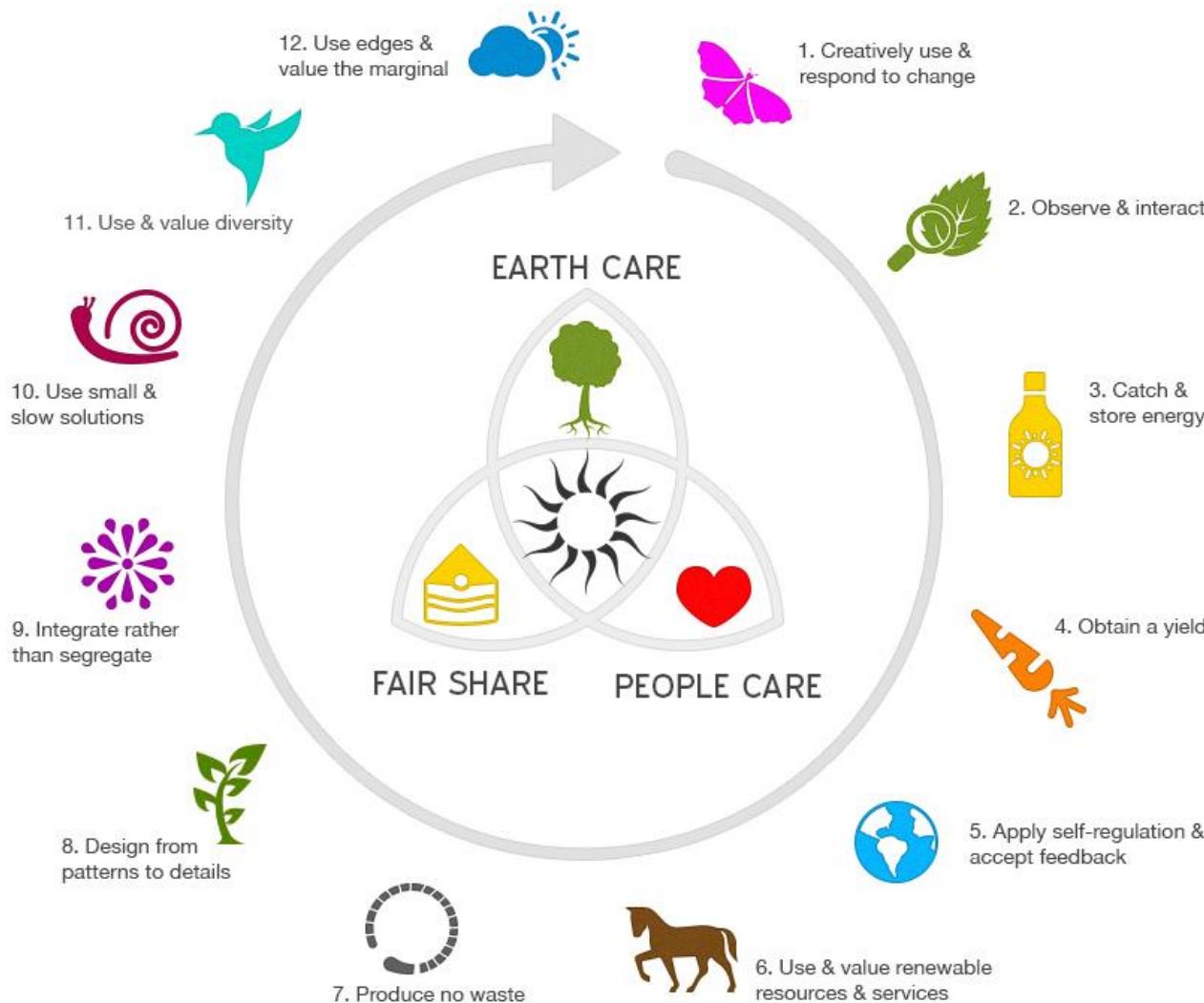
- Synergistic agriculture
- Agro ecology
- Agroforestry
- Seed sowing and propagation
- Bed prep
- Planting out
- Aftercare
- Harvesting
- Pest and disease
- Soils
- Water
- Scything and Tool care
- Composting
- Fruit tree pruning



principles of agroecology

- **Recycle Nutrient** –recycling of biomass, optimise nutrient availability
- **Build Soil**
- **Minimise losses** –by way of microclimate management, water harvesting and soil management
- **Optimise Diversity** –species and genetic diversity in time and space
- **Promote Beneficial Interactions**

Permaculture principles







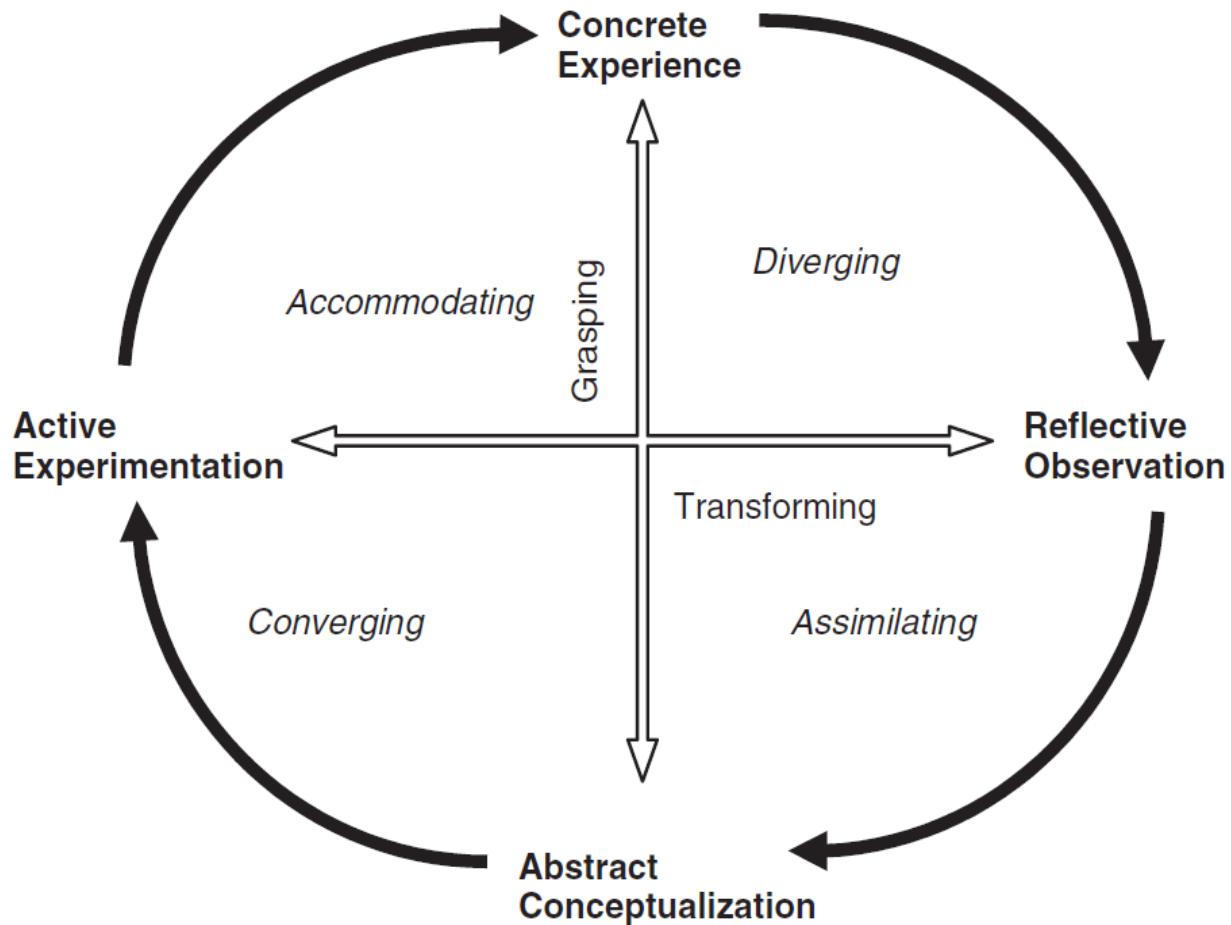






Experiential learning

- kolb



Contemplative enquiry

- Capacity for reflection
- Meaning making
- Inter-connectedness
- Depth of experience



Tobin Hart

"travel past points of certainty and meet both the world and ourselves in fresh ways"

Information is a potential portal into depth presence and intensity



Contemplation as a way of knowing

According to Arthur Zajonc:

- In the Reformation natural philosophy and spiritual life parted company.
- Contemplative practice was assigned to the religion side only.
- We need to redraw the map; balancing analysis with contemplative inquiry.

Contemplative Inquiry

- Logical inference and induction alone are insufficient for discovery & creation
- One *enters into* the other empathetically, be it a poem, nature, another person, or an idea.
- Instead of objectification, one *skillfully subjectifies* the world. Barbara McClintock
- Creative insight requires intimate engagement.
- Contemplative engagement becomes contemplative inquiry which leads to insight or contemplative knowing.

Arthur Zajonc's 7 stages of contemplative inquiry

- Respect
- Gentleness
- Intimacy
- Vulnerability
- Participation
- Transformation
- Imaginative insight



Facilitate

- Journals
- Fortnightly check ins
- Own areas – solo time
- Meditative spaces
- Projects



fun

