

PermaMed Son Barrina

PermaMed Son Barrina: The Permaculture Circles Education in Practice and Action



Dear friend,

Ecological education is perhaps the most useful activity that can be made in these current times.

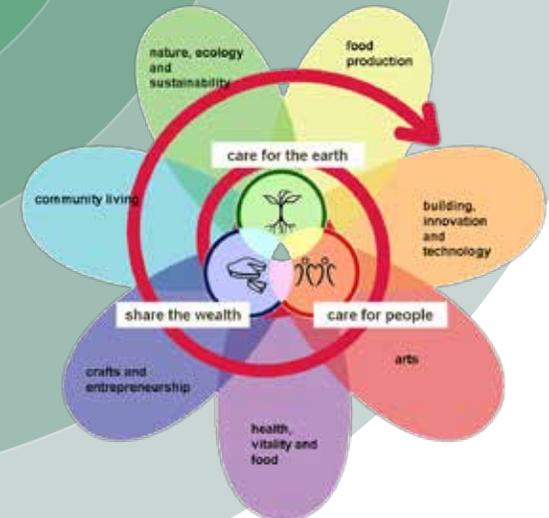
Humanity has never had so much information on how to manage the resources of the earth, nor has the knowledge of how the planet functions been so extensive and profound. Now we must put this knowledge into practice, a task which will be carried out by the next generation. Yet most educational models are based on obsolete paradigms which do not share the ecological and social perspectives which will come to mark life in the coming decades.

The group PermaMed is collaborating with Son Barrina Finca to develop an innovative, inspiring, and experiential demonstration site where ecological education will be offered for island residents as well as visitors. In doing so, we will be helping to develop both PermaMed and Son Barrina at the same time, a mutual benefit to both the group and the finca.

Permaculture

The Design of Sustainable Human Environments

Permaculture is a practical and easy to apply methodology based on the science of ecology that seeks to integrate humanity with the environment. Developed in the 70s, permaculture reflects the ancestral knowledge of good environmental practices throughout history. In today's world, we apply this knowledge to eco-efficient housing construction, renewable energy, water management, food production, economics, spirituality and harmonious social relations.



Permacultura Mediterránea (PermaMed)

PermaMed is a Mallorca-based organisation that works with a growing community of people who seek to live from the bounty offered by natural ecosystems, learning and working collaboratively to regreen Mallorca.



Our mission:

- Enhance creativity and personal and collective development through Education, Research, Inner Work and Celebration in a context of respect for the world around us
- Facilitate understanding of permaculture and regenerative methods through the development of demonstration sites
- Educate and research in Sustainable Design
- Offer tools to society for creating a more holistic worldview
- Increase awareness and implementation of lifestyles in resilient communities based on the principles of deep ecology
- Promote Ecoliteracy (ecological literacy)

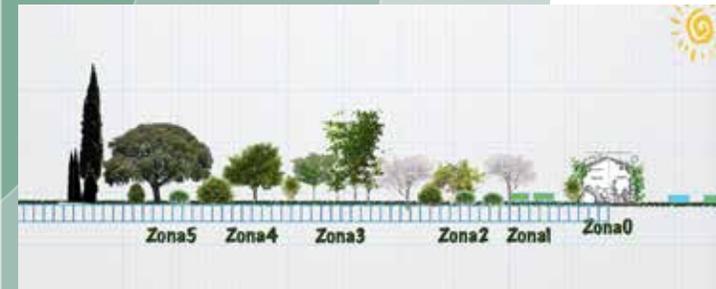


PermaMed Son Barrina

Along with Escuela Kumar, Finca Som Terra, and Sa Pedrissa, Son Barrina is one of PermaMed's four demonstration sites. The project at Son Barrina contains three main programs: The Permaculture Circles, Bioconstruction, and Eco-Education for Kids.

The Permaculture Circles: Sustainable Land Management

The Permaculture Circles, the main permaculture program at Son Barrina, is a project initiated by PermaMed president Julio Cantos Gazquez, one of the most experienced, respected and well-known permaculturalists in Spain. The form of the circles comes from a permaculture design practice called zoning, in which different human activities are represented symbolically in concentric circles. Son Barrina aims to provide a base for experimentation of sustainable human activities. The overall project is based on the development of a large multilayered agroforestry system known as a food forest where educational courses, workshops, and tours are made.



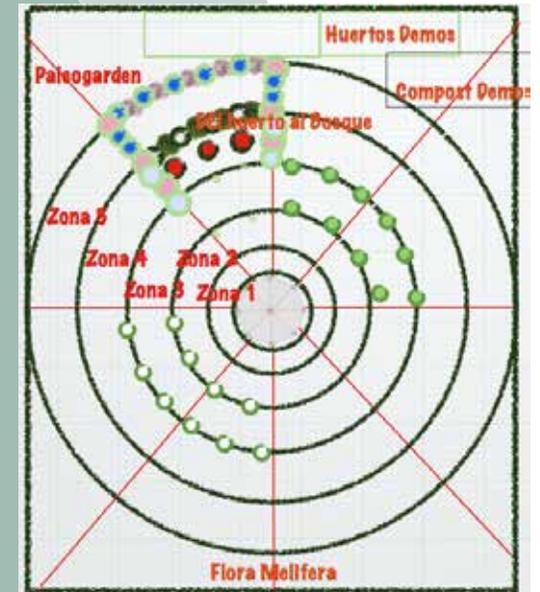
The site contains five concentric circles located in a field of just under one hectare, with a scientific, educational and artistic character, adapted to the local soil and climate conditions. Designed by Julio Cantos and built by a volunteer work force, the circles are centred on an octagonal structure meant to serve as an eco-chapel, a refuge, where one can honor the sacred relationship between human beings and the Earth. It is surrounded by two circles and two orchards of fruit trees, planted in such a way that ripe fruit can be found at any time of the year in a clockwise motion around the circles. The third circle is a natural orchard with areas of food, fiber and wood production. The fourth is a model of “analog forestry”—analogous or similar to the natural Mediterranean forest, but more productive in food and other goods. The outer circle is focused on the protection of biodiversity by creating an enveloping forest of native species where no human interventions are made.

Bioconstruction

PermaMed will be developing substantial infrastructure at Son Barrina in order to host residential and non-residential courses, activities, and workshops. In doing so, we will demonstrate some of the most important natural building—or “bioconstruction”—techniques such as building with straw bales, stone, cob, adobe, pallets, green walls and roofs, and so on. The different structures will include a community kitchen and dining room, an atelier for children’s art activities, a toolshed, an ecological toilet, a guesthouse for visiting teachers/visitors, a greenhouse, an office, a large water deposit, and the installation of windows and a door opening to the circles in Son Barrina’s classroom. This necessary infrastructure will require significant funding. The natural building will be organised by Alfred Decker, an experienced permaculture teacher who recently completed a post-graduate diploma in sustainable architecture and renewable energy from the Centre for Alternative Technology (Wales).

Eco-Education for Kids

PermaMed recognises that there is a lack of environmental activities for children on Mallorca. In particular, there is great demand for a place where there are activities for adults *and* children, either combined or separate, so that parents can go to one place with their kids and find activities for everyone. At Son Barrina, PermaMed will organise these activities through a team spearheaded by Daniella Querol with the objective to combine ecological education, art, and permaculture for children.



Support This Project

We have the team, the knowledge, the experience, and the dedication to realise this project. What we need is seed money for the project to grow. Your tax-deductible contribution will help to create a truly remarkable project in the years to come.

We are able to receive bank transfers and deposits at our bank account: Asociación Permacultura Mediterránea, Caixa de Colonya de Pollença, with the concept "Son Barrina".

IBAN: ES21 2056 0009 73 4102002606
BIC: CECAESMM056

Please send us an email at info@permamed.org to confirm the donation and so that we can send you a receipt for your taxes.

If you would like to contribute by donating a tree or participating in our project, you are very welcome, just send us a line at the above address!

For a vibrant, green future in Mallorca,



The Team



Julio Cantos, is one of the Mediterranean's foremost experts on food forests and ecological forestry, as well as a widely-respected permaculture teacher, practitioner, and diploma holder. He is coordinator of the The Permaculture Circles project; and the Spanish representative instructor of the International Analog Forestry Network (www.analogforestrynetwork.org); and the co-founder of PermaMed.



Alfred Decker is the founder of Permacultura Barcelona (www.permacultura-bcn.org) and the Food Forest project at Can Masdeu (www.canmasdeu.net); is a member of the Permaculture Council of Europe (www.permaculturecouncil.eu) and the European Permaculture Teachers Partnership (www.permateachers.eu); holds a permaculture diploma from the Blue Mountains Permaculture Institute (Australia) and has taught widely throughout southern Europe.



Daniella Querol, certified permaculturalist, studied fine arts in Mexico and Germany and earned three masters degrees in experimental film, documentary film, and photography. She has studied "educación viva" in Catalunya and worked for many years with children in arts. She passionately believes that permaculture, educación viva, personal empowerment through creativity are the keys for transforming society and taking care of the planet.

And the PermaMed group in support.

