

GAIA Education
Ecovillage Design Education Curriculum
Dimension 5 – Design Attitudes

The Design Attitudes are intended as a set of guidelines to complement the Design Principles, displayed graphically on the Mandala as a spiral originating in the center and moving in a counter-flow direction. The Attitudes are believed to *precede* design, in the sense that a given person's attitudes toward life may lead them into design experiences; yet, in continuous cyclic feedback, once the process is underway, any given design experience will in turn influence attitude, such that attitude becomes an *outcome* of the design experience. Here's one way to look at it: experimentation → experience → expression

Another way to look at it is in a set of comparisons:

Design Attitudes:

- Yin
- Internal
- Feeling

Design Principles

- * Yang
- * External
- * Mental

Here are the initial Attitudes we thought we would work with:

DESIGN ATTITUDES:

- 1) Envision and Commit to a Positive Future
- 2) Work for Solutions; Don't Fight Problems
- 3) Offer Work in Service to a Greater Whole
- 4) Focus on Meaningful Relationships
- 5) Everything is on Schedule
- 6) Live at the Leading Edge of Evolution
- 7) Everything We Need is Already Available
- 8) Nature is the Model to Emulate
- 9) Stay Calm, Centered, Grounded
- 10) Give Priority to Quality over Quantity
- 11) The Education Never Ends
- 12) The Power of Love Keeps Everything Together

Other options: Think Global and Local/Act Global and Local; Action Not Words; All Problems are Systemic – No Problems with People; Promote Optimum Wellness; Get Up Early. Paulo wanted to use 13 Attitudes and Principles, the 13th being “transcendent.”