

“Design Project Proposal”
WSD – Design Languages
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As a Design Project for this Design Languages class, I propose to initiate a study with the title “A Pattern Languages for Ecovillages.” I actually began this work several years ago by formulating the first twelve patterns for this title (see enclosed). My purpose was to restructure the introductory patterns to the seminal *A Pattern Language*, aligning them more with the principles and concerns of a purely *ecological* settlement design, and reframing the whole work as proceeding from an ecological world-view. The first twelve patterns I formulated provide a *context* within which the ‘ecovillage’ can gracefully manifest itself. In the study for this class, I want to go to the next level and begin formulating the patterns for the internal organization of the ecovillage. I must state at the outset that this is an exercise in theoretical ‘ekistics,’ so an image of the ideal ecovillage will be used as the ‘unit’ of truly sustainable settlement for the 21st century.

My role in this Project will be to serve as the facilitator of a group process devoted to this work. I will convene a series of seminars to gather the interested minds and take them through the steps to discover, identify, and articulate specific language patterns for ecovillages. This will require a familiarity with both the seminal work and my own introductory patterns. Each seminar will be approximately 4 hours in length. There must be two of them: one to present the Project and begin the thinking along these lines – then a space in between for the students to formulate their patterns – followed by a consolidation session. After that, I will organize and print the new patterns, finally re-distributing them to the students as a booklet. I think it would be interesting to implement the Project in two different locations with two different kinds of students: 1) architecture students at the University of Washington, and 2) liberal arts students at Fairhaven College, WWU. It will be very informative to discover and compare the patterns that each group brings forth.