

Learning pathway design background information

What is a Diploma Action Learning Pathway?

An Action Learning Pathway (ALP) is a personal plan of your intended journey whilst on the diploma. At the end of the pathway is your “vision” of who you want to be, the skills you want to have..... and to get there you design your route, this is your “pathway”. The route will include your other designs which are chosen to help you and give you the skills that you need to achieve your ALP vision. The ALP also contains a time frame of when you will have tutorials and assessments, start new designs, build in celebrations, review the actual pathway itself and finally your accreditation/presentation event. It is recommended that the ALP becomes one of your 10 designs. You may want to give it quite a bit of detail in the early stages and then review it after 6 months. As such you may have several versions of your initial ALP as you move through the diploma process and life takes its course. Everyone’s ALP will be unique to them, ongoing and will develop – as all permaculture designs are.

The questions offered with the design web are just some that might be useful pointers to start our thinking. They aren’t complete and you might find that some are not relevant or thought provoking for you, so do feel free to adapt to your own list. You are also invited to use creative approaches to making and presenting your ALP.

There are examples of ALPs on the Permaculture Association (Britain)s website.

Written by Deborah Simmonds

Action learning pathway designs using the Design Web

Template created by Looby Macnamara

(more info on the Design Web in People and Permaculture by Looby Macnamara)

You can visit any of these anchor points in any order

Quick Design	
Vision Presenter Teacher Designer Creative Frameworks Paradise Knowledge Unexpected	Helps Desire for skills Teaching experience Homeschooling-20 yrs Curriculum Design Motivation & Drive Courage to be in the unknown Family support Connections

<p>Paradise Knowledge Unexpected</p>	<p>Leader Good at multitasking</p>
<p>Limits</p> <p>Too many projects Self trust Raising grandchildren 2 Diplomas Yoga certification course Family visits Homeschooling grands</p>	<p>Patterns</p> <p>Diligent in endeavors Seek to learn more Strong determination Self discipline Planning ability Dive in Hands on Different perspectives Half land based, half people based Half large, half small designs</p>
<p>Ideas</p> <p>Learning Pathway Bug Hotel Secret Garden Herb Garden Team to OLCERI Blending the 4 Lake Cities Family Permaculture Oliver's Forest Whimsical Healing</p>	<p>Principles</p> <p>Use them all Reflect</p>
<p>Integration</p> <p>Schedule out Further education Journal outcomes & solutions</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>See Gantt chart Take CEED Meet with specific people Create deadlines</p>
<p>Momentum</p> <p>Setting aside time Connecting to inspiring people Mentors Attend gatherings Volunteering Conversations with colleagues</p>	<p>Appreciation</p> <p>Share my designs Share my successes Celebrate each completion</p>

Reflection	Pause
Think through designs Need to study frameworks & tools Where do I need guidance Review timescales Don't forget to celebrate Importance of pause	Spend time with family & friends Plan time at the lake/nature Travel to reboot Perspective & priorities Healthy balance Take small and slow steps per design

Vision

Who do you want to be when you have completed your diploma?

I want to be a respected, trusted and inspiring presenter, teacher and designer. I see my future self giving permission to myself to be creative and finding that link that often feels like it is missing for me. I want to fully understand, visualize and be able to execute various design frameworks. And I want to establish a paradise around me that reminds me of all I have learned every day.

What skills do you want to have?

- I want to know design frameworks, be able to execute them, and be able to guide others through the process.
- I want to have focus to slow down, filter the numerous ideas and thoughts, and complete tasks with a high level of confidence. Also to increase health, reduce weight, and facilitate deep peace.
- I want to have professional, yet fun, unexpected and creative designs and presentations while improving my presentation and communication skills.
- Increase plant and tree knowledge
- Increase water catchment and harvesting, and soil knowledge

Helps

What are your motivations for doing the diploma? Through the self directed diploma, I realized I did not have the skills needed for organized, creative design presentations. I also have the desire to make deeper connections throughout the world within permaculture. I think the diploma with the Permaculture Association can help with that.

What internal resources do you have? I have years of experience homeschooling and working through a self directed diploma. That gives me the motivation and drive needed to organize my time. It also gives me years of

experience designing curriculum, plans and outlines. I also have a strong desire to make a difference and the courage needed to step out of my comfort zone.

What external resources do you have? I have the support of my husband and family to achieve these goals. Connections that I have made so far will be valuable resources to call on for guidance. And I have experience with teaching, writing, designing, and leading that I will be able to draw on.

Limits

What are your limiting factors? Starting too many projects has always been an issue, but I enjoy the juggle. I also struggle with trusting myself. I am also raising my grandchildren which was unexpected. That will be resolving itself over the next year or so, but it does bring stress.

What other distractions are there? I am finishing the first diploma by August 2021. I am also working through a yoga certification, but have a specified amount of time per week for that. I have children at opposite US coasts that I visit throughout the year and an elderly mother that I visit. While I have my grandsons, I am homeschooling them.

Patterns

What are the patterns of success from other learning experiences in your life? Since I found permaculture in 2016, I have been diligent in any class I've taken and am always seeking to learn more. I have a strong determination to succeed and even when I need to slow down, I have completed my courses. And I've been homeschooling children for about 20 years which takes great self discipline and planning abilities.

What are your learning patterns? I learn best when I dive into something. I need a mix of hands on, audio and visual to get the full perspective. It also helps me to come at things from different vantage points or use different techniques to unlock full understanding.

What are the typical points in a learning cycle at which you want to give up? There usually comes a time within a project that I have trouble finding a way for my ideas to come to life; almost like there is a disconnect that I cannot make. Also, if I cannot find the resources to achieve understanding of a topic it is tempting to move on to another project. Sometimes it helps me to step out of my comfort zone and try something new or what I am avoiding.

(Lusi added) What are the patterns of designs that you want to include? The number of land based vs people based design; large vs small designs; tools; design processes; which designs will I include from previous diploma.

Annette would like half land-based and half people-based designs.

Would like to do a session plan design.

Want to use all of the main permaculture design tools and frameworks.

Ideas

What ideas do you have for projects?

Design	Land or People	Small or Large	Framework
Action Learning Pathway	People	Small	Design Web
Secret Garden	Land	Small	SADIMET
Bug Hotel	People	Small	SADIMET
Herbal Garden	Land	Large	
Blending the 4 Lake Cities	People	Large	
Family Permaculture	People	Large	
Team to OLCERI	People	Large	
Oliver's Forest	Land	?	
Whimsical Healing	Land	Small	Design Web
Healing Garden	Land	Large	

Updated chart 1/24/2022

Design	Land or People	Small or Large	Framework
Action Learning Pathway	People	Small	Design Web
Secret Garden	Land	Small	SADIMET
Bug Hotel	People	Small	SADIMET
The Garden of Medicine	Land	Large	CEAPER
Embark and Embrace with Ease	Personal	Small	Design Web
	People	Large	
Team to OLCERI?	People	Large	
Oliver's Garden	Land	Small	OBREDIMET
Whimsical Healing	Land	Small	Design Web
The Healing Garden	Land	Large	

Updated chart 12/24/2023

Design	Land or People	Small or Large	Framework
Action Learning Pathway	People	Small	Design Web
Secret Garden	Land	Small	SADIMET
Bug Hotel	People	Small	SADIMET
Whimsical Healing	Land	Small	Design Web
The Garden of Medicine	Land	Large	CEAPER

Peace, Bliss Within	Land	Large	OBREDIMET
Embark and Embrace with Ease	Personal	Small	EMBARK
Chiang Rai Project	Land	Large	GOSADIMET
Emerald Acres	Land	Large	OBREDIMET
Our Street Companion Guide	People	Large	SADIMET

Principles

How can you use the principles to help you plan your pathway? I can make sure that every principle is addressed throughout this diploma process. If there is a principle that isn't being touched in some way, then I have something else to learn.

For example you might want to use zoning to think about which zone your projects are in, or edge what edges can you create between permaculture and other areas of your life? I would love to start a design from a principle alone, but I do plan to start each design by looking at the principles for guidance.

Ethic or Principle	How it Applies
Earth Care	Thinking through the skills and relationships with plants I would like to gain help me to plan for designs that will include Earth Care.
People Care	This process shows me to start with myself and then work outwards to individuals and my community.
Fair Share	Through the designs and the skills acquired, I will be able to share with my family and community.
Observe and Interact	Taking the time to observe my thoughts, vision and limits will help me

	to create a better plan.
Catch and Store Energy	Using charts such as the Gantt chart allow me to catch and store current thoughts and plans for the progression of the diploma. They can be revisited as needed.
Obtain a Yield	Working through the design web allows me to practice various observation techniques that produce a yield of deeper thought and better planning.
Apply Self Regulation and Apply Feedback	Through the web process, charts and reflection, I can see where I need to dig deeper, work hard, or learn a new skill.
Use and Value Renewable Resources and Services	The guidance of Lusi and others who have followed this path are invaluable resources.
Design from Patterns to Details	This design web process takes me from a pattern into details through each anchor point.
Use Edges and Value the Marginal	By looking at my planned diploma designs and processes, I can see their edges and where they blend together. That gives me extra design space to work with.

Integration

What are the needs of the design? E.g. what limiting factors need to be overcome? Some of my design ideas need time to culminate in an outcome such as Family Permaculture Classes & PDC. This needs to be scheduled out, feedback received, and dedicated time to journal outcomes. Some will need further education in order to achieve the desired outcome. Brad Lancaster's Water

Management class, basket weaving, mosaics, and Looby Macnamara's CEED class are some examples. I need to be able to include space for these types of classes in order to achieve the desired completion date. If I can't then I either need to work towards a different design or find a different solution.

What systems can you put in place to fulfill these needs? I can remain dedicated to the schedule I have put in place for myself while being open to restructuring that as needed.

Diploma Design Timescale for Action and Yields

												Expected		Early	Extended		Half Way		FINISHED					
Annette Argabright	2021												2022											
Design	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug				
Action Learning Pathway																								
Secret Garden																								
Bug Hotel																								
The Garden of Medicine																								
Embark Embrace & Ease																								
Open																								
Team to OLCERI?																								
Oliver's Garden																								
Whimsical Healing																								
The Healing Garden or keep open																								

Updated 1/24/2022

Diploma Design Timescale for Action and Yields

Expected Early Extended Half Way FINISHED

Annette Argabright												2022								
Design	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Action Learning Pathway																				
Secret Garden																				
Bug Hotel																				
Whimsical Healing																				
The Garden of Medicine																				
Peace, Bliss Within																				
Embark, Embrace, Ease																				
Chiang Rai Project																				
Emerald Acres																				
Our Street Companion Guide																				

Updated 12/24/2023

Diploma Design Timescale for Action and Yields

Expected

Early

Extended

Half Way

FINISHED

Annette Argabright

2022

2023

Design	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec							
Action Learning Pathway																							
Secret Garden																							
Bug Hotel																							
Whimsical Healing																							
The Garden of Medicine																							
Peace, Bliss Within	█																						
Embark Embrace & Ease	█																						
Chiang Rai Project						█																	
Emerald Acres							█																
Our Street Companion Guide									█														

Updated 12/24/2023

Momentum

How are you going to keep going? I have time set aside for studying and writing as well as some time set aside for implementing. I will use that as well as reaching out to those that can help inspire me or teach me along the way.

What strategies can you put in place for support? I can utilize the monthly PA gatherings, volunteer at the agroforestry project, make my diploma efforts known to those I work with in Permayouth, take needed classes along the way, continue to meet with you, and reach out to colleagues.

Appreciation

How are you going to appreciate your efforts? I have some people in my life I can share my designs with.

What can you do to celebrate your successes and efforts? (these can be timetabled in beforehand) Share my successes with colleagues as well as in the PYA festivals or in classes as an example of continuing education. Take time to treat myself special after each completion.

Reflection

What has gone well with your learning pathway? I've needed to really think through projects I want guidance with or that would fit within certain design frameworks. It has helped me to see designs through more refined eyes.

What have you found challenging? Thinking through some of the details like timescale, integration, celebrating, recognizing the importance of the "Pause".

Update 1/24/2022: Life changed for my family at the halfway point for this diploma and leaves us with many unknowns. I am reevaluating the rest of my diploma projects to reflect our new direction.

Pause

How can you rejuvenate yourself? Taking the time to be in the garden, at the lake, or with friends and family helps me to step away from work. Traveling with my family reboots my mind and helps my perspective and priorities.

How can you rejuvenate your enthusiasm for permaculture? Having a healthy balance of computer work for these designs and field work to get my hands dirty will help to excite my enthusiasm for permaculture.

How can you get started again after a pause? Use small and slow solutions within my schedule times of tackling simple design tasks to gently ease back into a design.

Evaluation-I plan to evaluate this design again in December 2021 reviewing each anchor point and updating as necessary. I will review what has gone well, what could have been done differently, what was difficult, and who I have received feedback from. I will update the Gantt chart as needed every three months (September 2021, December 2021, and March 2022).

Update 12/24/2023: Updates did not happen as planned. 6-12 month updates would have been more realistic.

Reflection

What did I learn through the design web process?

Using the design web taught me a little bit more about the anchor points and how to use them.

Using a Gantt Chart was new to me and difficult to do on the computer. While it was easier on paper, I wanted to learn how to set one up on the computer. After trying several apps, I chose Google Sheets.

Through the process I did include the Healing Garden my friend Sarah and I dreamed about a couple years ago. We even presented the idea to our city but it was not received well. Things are different now, and I think it would be a good design to fit into the pattern of designs for this diploma.

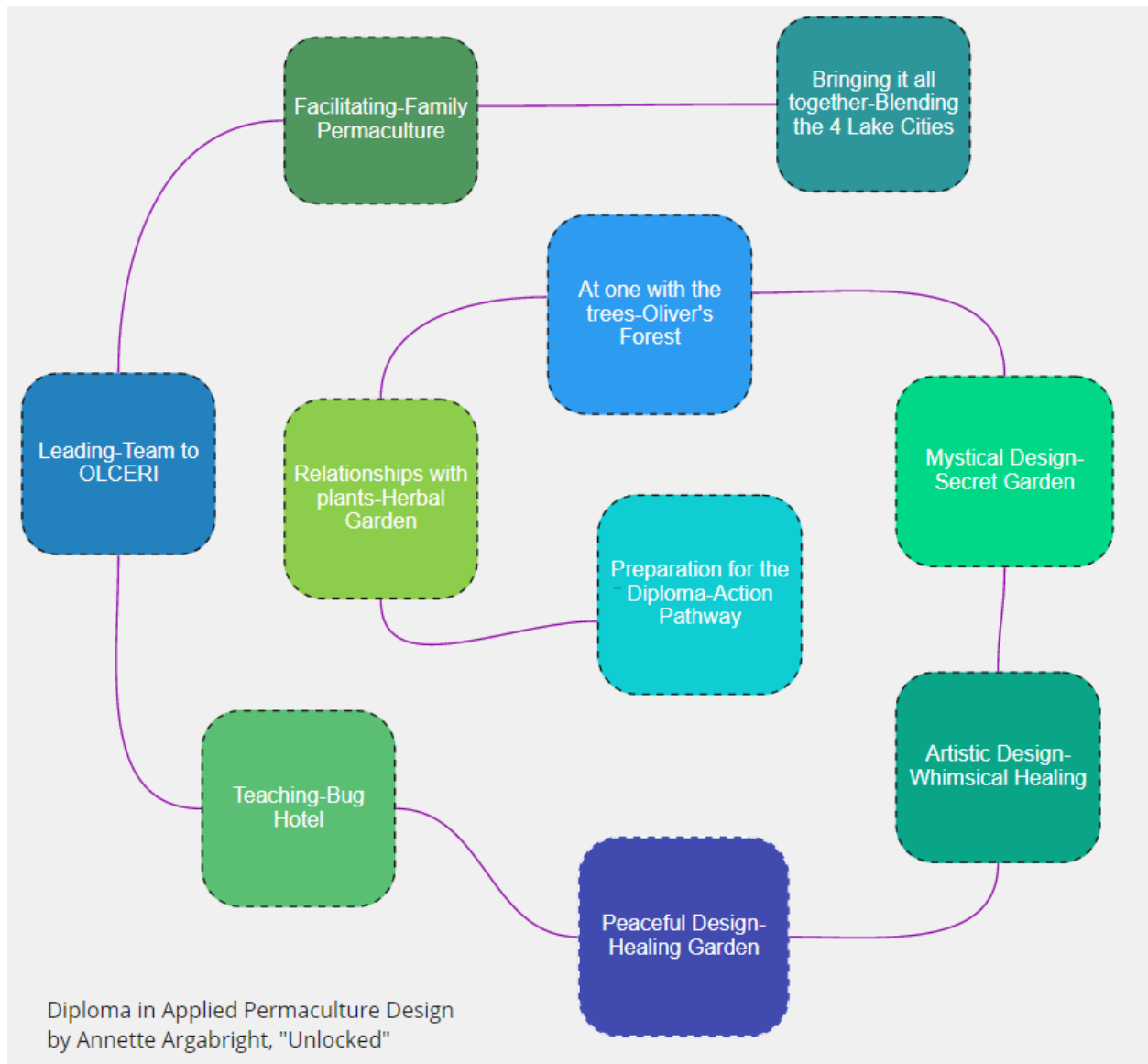
What did I learn as a designer?

Don't enjoy land-based designs for other people as specific plant-lists etc. Didn't enjoy community college landscape design. I said this at the beginning of the process. However, it is more that I did not enjoy the constraints put on me by the requirements of the class. It took away the creativity.

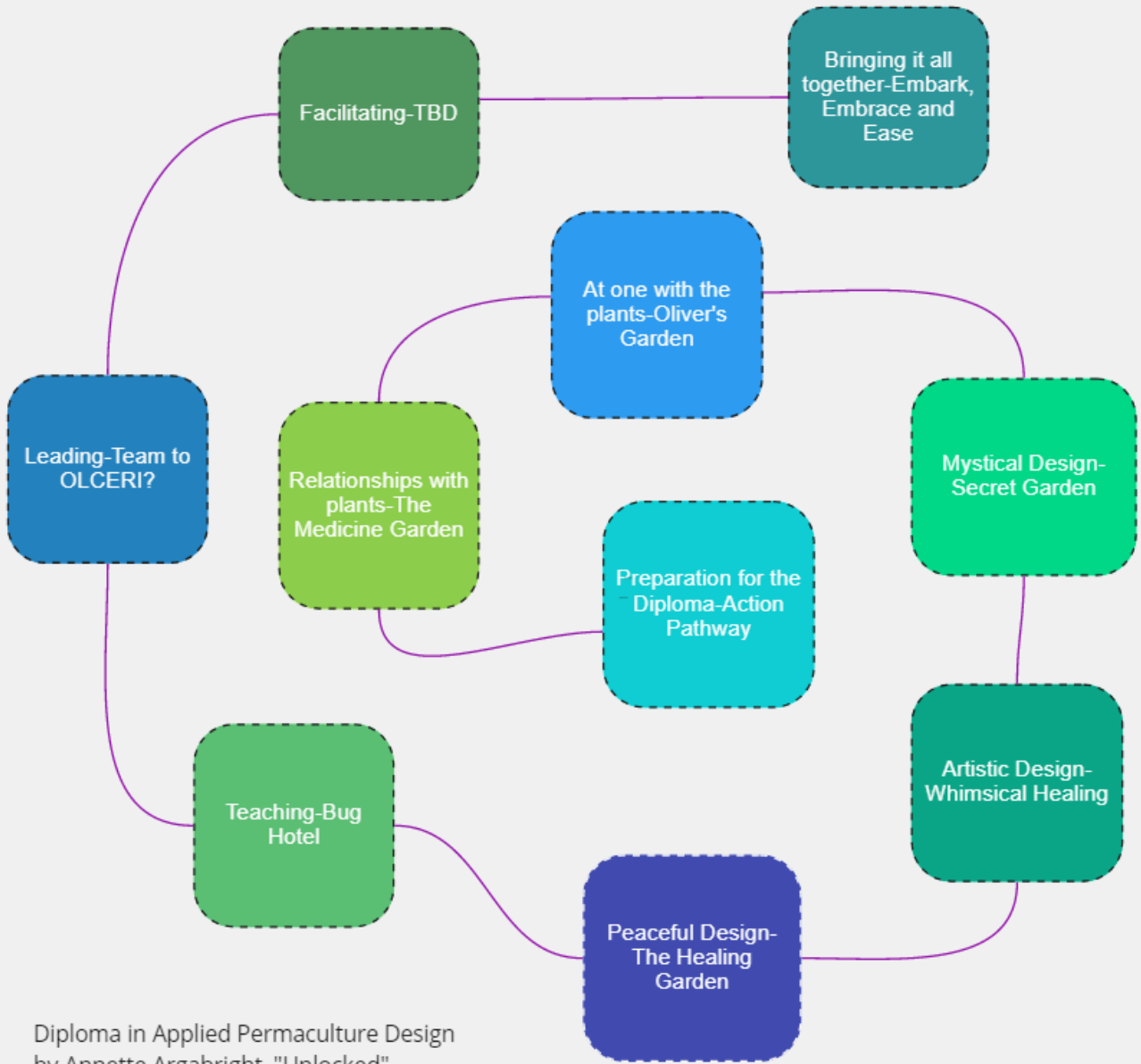
I am finding that I have more to offer as a designer and educator than I realized. Using the design web will help me to slow down and look deeper into each anchor point of a design, class or event.

Working through this process helped me "unlock" the pattern of designs this graphic shows. It starts with this design and works through inner "unlocking", into building relationships with plants, more creative and meaningful designs,

and into leading and facilitating groups and events. It is a spiral to show the process of unlocking my inner limits to reveal my true potential.



Update 1/24/2022: As our life chapter changed, I realized the second half of my diploma designs needed to change. There are still some unknowns that I will update again in June 2022, but here is an updated spiral of designs.



Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design
by Annette Argabright, "Unlocked"

Update 12/23/2023 - More changes along the way, but finished strong.

