

Shelter making workshops

constructing eco-spaces for community life.

One of the aims for the land, would be to run 'low impact eco-build workshops', for constructing workspaces and shelters. These workshops would explore the 'common threads' of simple shelter building, borrowing elements from land based communities around the globe.

"Shelter is so much more than a roof over your head."

In times past, people built their own homesteads. These early people had to build with readily available natural materials. The basic resources of rock, wood, earth, plants etc were all that was available to them, and these same or similar resources were common to almost all peoples.

Knowledge of ancient building crafts and other traditional skills, were generally passed on through the generations. These dormant skills and talents may prove to be some of our most valuable assets for the future. Things have changed, but our basic need for shelter, is still the same.

Of course there are places throughout the world where these skills are still in daily use and our aim is to learn from our brothers and sisters, past and present.

These workshops would aim:

- To teach and learn traditional shelter making skills from around the globe.
- To combine modern eco-technology with natural and recycled materials to create low impact eco-Shelters.

Traditional round house:

This could be up to 6m diameter, and would incorporate traditional building styles and methods including, stone, wattle, mud brick, cob, packed earth, rustic timber frame, grass & straw thatch.

Straw Bale Dome:

This would be approx. 4m in diameter, be dome shaped, and finished in a clay and lime render. Straw bales, as well as being cheap, are an excellent insulator and make a quick, easy, user friendly, building material. With the addition of clay and lime render it will become an intrinsically beautiful and interesting addition to the natural environment . A light pipe mounted in the centre of the roof will infuse the dome's interior with natural light.

"Low impact homes vary greatly but are characterized by being very discreet, requiring next to no infrastructure and being built from environmentally friendly materials. At its best, it is development whose foundations would be impossible to find six months after it was demolished."

Quote from: 'This Land Is Ours'. A grassroots land rights campaigning group, based on the land in Somerset.

Document created: 23rd Jan 2006 Updated: 23rd Jan 2006