

'The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between the way nature works and the way people think'

Gregory Bateson

Into the Wild

Processes designed to encourage spontaneous, vital thinking

It is evident that our intellectual mode of thinking has limited our ability to perceive the world in its wholeness and aliveness. By exploring dynamic processes in nature we can playfully explore and creatively connect with new ways of thinking and – through this – doing design in the future.

STRANDS INFORMING THE IDEA

This four-day immersion is aimed at professional designers, design educators and students, as well as individuals involved in organisational development for whom, design can play a key role in the context of current opportunities. The design panorama that awaits us, elicits an active search for new instrumentalities adequate to the task of supporting each individual in their effort to become active participants in culture. As design activist Richard Buchanan states 'Products should be personal pathways in the otherwise confusing ecology of culture'.

If design is to be a tool for transformation, (the focus of the Design World Capital 2014 – Live Design and Transform Life) then it is surely less about 'managing' the problems differently, and more about developing a quality of seeing that can deepen understanding regarding transformative process. This is vital if we are to form critical relationships between citizen, culture and nature.

The way we are, the way we think, how and what we see, how we relate to others as well as, to ourselves – the rudiments of a social sensibility – will determine what we do and how we negotiate the present crisis, and design the future.

IMMERSION INTO PROCESS

A considered and thoughtful immersion into the organic world of nature – particularly where it is pristine and wild – allows a new kind of thinking to form which can distinguish our projects. Primarily we will focus on ecological and social design, informed by the principles of nature. These principles in essence generate the energy with which to expand ways of observing, paying attention, developing awareness, being open and making time for reflection and self-awareness, as the harbinger for right action.

ECOLOGICAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

We will delve into the design principles and logics, which underpin various forms of social organisation in order to find organically consistent and coherent (living) ways of organising for socio-ecological action.

Participants will learn a different way of working with their crafts and disciplines, with their publics and with ways of organising, through this facilitated immersion into the very living processes which we are sworn to protect, yet which we often distort through the very 'management' principles that we employ in our projects to protect them.

The sessions, insights and learning over the four days will be documented and disseminated more broadly through written and artistic publication.

A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS – the facilitators

Between Karen Suskin, Al Kaplan and Sue Davidoff (socio-ecological development practitioners) and the Wilderness – we will create a place where real conversations can be held and new thinking, new faculties and new practices, appropriate to our collective future, can be nurtured.

VENUE: We look forward to you and your staff's participation as you step INTO THE WILD. Towerland Wilderness Retreat is a refuge for pristine mountain fynbos situated in the Langeberg mountains of the southern Cape - with imposing mountain peaks, a generous river and abundant wildlife. The beautiful meeting space and accommodation is all built from natural materials and complements the wild open spaces.

DATES: 10, 11, 12 + 13 September 2012

INVESTMENT: R7,200.00 – accommodation and meals are inclusive

Warm regards

Karen, Al and Sue

For further information please contact Karen at cross-poll@icon.co.za or refer to:

www.karensuskin.co.za and the link to-Cross-Pollination Workshops
www.theproteusinitiative.org
www.towerlandwilderness.org