

The Village Language for Polcum Springs

Based on July 2005 Design Charrette with Bob Theis, Architect

1. Adjacencies Along Contour. Locate adjacent uses along contour, such as the big house, kitchen, bathhouse, and dining terrace. Don't try to close-link divergent elevations such as the house, the grove, and the pond. Chart nuisance distances by comparing where we travel to the number of trips per day; stay within nuisance distances to make foot-travel easy and convenient.
2. Small Public Square. Make the social place the arrival place. Make the experience of "welcoming" tactile by incorporating water, shade, green, and rest.
3. Intimacy Gradient. Provide a public "front" (with a social life) and a quiet "back" (focused on serenity of natural life) for village buildings.
4. Visible Work. Line the square with public activities such as the community kitchen, office, workshop and craft shop, and other flexible spaces.
5. Dwellings Close In. Build tiny homes, along contour, utilizing the community kitchen and bathhouse.
6. Obvious Entry. Create a grand entry for visitors, guests, and workshop registrants on the public square. Also provide for everyday entry-access to kitchen and bathrooms.
7. Hidden Kitchen Terrace. Create a kitchen terrace where residents can enjoy a quiet cup of tea and sunshine. Let it overlook, but be screened from the Public Square.
8. Kitchen at the Heart. Make the kitchen the heart of the village; have it overlook both the Public Square and the Semi-Private Corridor.
9. Semi-Private Corridor. Connect the big house, bath house, and dining terrace via a semi-private corridor. Keep it distinct from the Public Square and Campers' Core; maintain clear thresholds.
10. Water through the Village. Divert a little stream through the village. Locate pools at focal points (Square, Kitchen Terrace, dining terrace, Campers' Core, Vegetable Garden). Plant the new stream as a linear garden, until it finally threads through the actual garden. We are at this place because the water is, so celebrate it, don't pipe it!
11. Choice of Sun. Every terrace, to be fully used, should offer people the choice of full sun, dappled shade, or deep shade. Deep shade provides protection from lateral, as well as overhead, light and heat. Provide micro-misters also, to deepen the contrast.
12. Campers' Core. Provide showers and toilets, outdoor kitchen, and a terrace convenient to Semi-Private Corridor utilities but distinct from the indoor bath house and kitchen realm.
13. Vegetable Garden. Create the garden below kitchen(s) and bath(s) in full sun and along the new water course.
14. Easier Paths. Eliminate steep sliding spots with longer path routes.