





Transformation from the Grassroots

Since 2005 I've been developing and facilitating workshops to help integrate social justice and sustainability strategies.



Liberation Ecology

What would sustainability look like, if it refused to sustain systemic inequality?

What could liberation look like, in a society headed for ecological collapse?

In this experiential workshop, participants answer these questions for their own work, through design activities, systems mapping exercises, presentations, and facilitated discussion.

Designing Systemic Change

How do we understand the relationship between our work as individuals, and large-scale change? It's question that each of us eventually confront - but we're given very little preparation or support in answering it. This participatory workshop guides participants through a series of prompts and activities to help us think strategically, and systematically, and take away simple conceptual tools and practices to help them connect their own passions with the tides of global change.

Permaculture Design

Introduction to Permaculture

Permaculture works to create sustainable, labor-saving ways of meeting all our needs for food, shelter, and infrastructure. Permaculture is a powerful toolbox for individuals and communities to take charge of their livelihoods and their ecological impact. Covers history, ethics, principles, and practices of permaculture.

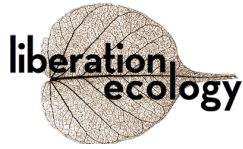
Mycoscaping: Mushrooms in the Edible Landscape

Even if you're an avid gardener - if you are only gardening plants, you're missing out! There is a whole other kingdom to explore - and eat. We'll learn how to look at mushroom crops through a holistic, permaculture lens, and find the niche in the landscape where they can perform useful ecological functions, even as they produce food and medicine for us.

Urban Permaculture

The very qualities that make cities so destructive when managed unwisely, create a wealth of opportunities for abundant, regenerative, vibrant landscapes. We'll make a case for the potential and possibility of reinventing the urban ecosystem, and explore the bottom-up strategies that will get us there.





These are few of the places that have hosted me for talks and workshops

(leaving out academic conferences)

AgroParisTech, Paris France • Center for Bioregional Living, Ellenville NY • Coventry University, Coventry UK • Dartmouth College, Hanover NH • Earth Activist Training, Girona Spain • EcoFeminism Summit, Women's Resources Center, Urbana IL • Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute, Alpine NY • Growing Food and Justice for All, Milwaukee WI • Hampshire College, Hadley MA • Montview Neighborhood Farm, Northampton MA • Northeast Organic Farming Association, Amherst • MA • RockDove Healthcare Collective, New York NY • School for Designing a Society, Urbana IL • St. Lawrence University, Canton NY • Tompkins County Worker's Center, Ithaca NY • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana IL

Here are some responses from workshop attendees

"Liberation Ecology opened my eyes to profound realizations and to connections I had never made before. As a novice, I found it completely accessible and absorbing."

Chen Tamir, curator

"His presentation is accessible in a way that attracts and grabs hold of your attention, and remains provocatively on your mind long after the workshop session has ended..."

Jen Carson, farmer

"I continue to be amazed by the outcomes of our short Liberation Ecology workshop with Rafter. We identified some underlying issues of ecological design concerning social and economic justice, came together to create succinct design criteria to address these issues, and educated each other about existing projects that are already working to resolve them."

- Ethan Roland, Appleseed Permaculture

"I can honestly say that Liberation Ecology is the most exciting thing I've [encountered] since stumbling across permaculture; [Rafter] articulate[s] a way of examining a very diffuse nest of problems and issues that I think would resonate with people in a lot of different movements. It gives us a set of ideas and a vocabulary to start with; it's a form of conceptual empowerment."

- David Travis, Sustainable Land Stewardship Alliance