



Escola Kumar - Exciting Progress 2013- 2019

It's been just over six years since Escola Kumar- PermaMed project was initiated from an inspired idea into a fully engaged project. In that time thousands of people have participated in the project attending hundreds of workshops, events, courses, youth exchanges etc...Many new projects and centers that are now active on the island have been inspired through Escola Kumar-PermaMed, as well as new holistic - permaculture in school programs, and youth and community projects. The influence of Escola Kumar has reached off island and we are invited to participate in national and international conferences sharing our experiences as well as participants in international cooperative projects supporting youth in permaculture with other countries.

It is encouraging to see the increasing demand for in creating sustainable, regenerative, and resilient society. Over the years Escola Kumar, in collaboration with Permacultura Mediterranea, have been able to expand our reach in response on several fronts. Many of these projects have become self supporting. We are working with an increasing number of public schools, guiding teachers and students to collaboratively redesign their education centers to become a reference and inspiration to local communities for resilience, sustainability and regeneration. There is currently a waiting list for this support as we quickly train permaculture educators to help meet this growing demand.

Youths who have been supported through our Permaculture Pathway Programs, such as the two week youth exchange we coordinated in December for 60 youths from nine countries, are now spearheading community projects of their own, with our support. Their activities include leading over 500 youths in a Fridays for Climate - climate change march in the center of Palma and organizing a music and permaculture events for hundreds of participants, such as "Roots and Permaculture", offering youth run permaculture workshops and music for youths and the community.





The Holistic Living and Resilience Community Transition program has been providing tools for transition and resilience in personal lives and communities through supportive workshops and certification courses for educators, community leaders, families, and professionals. Several of the programs participants are creating their own new education and demonstration centers, green economy innovation projects, and alternative communities. We have also been invited to collaborate with an increasing number of local and international organizations and Universities including participation in several international convergences in 2019. As a result new partnerships are arising such as a budding biodiversity, rewilding, and marine permaculture project in collaboration with “Save the Med”, and a rehydrating mediterranean landscapes initiative with S’Aigo Mallorca and rewilding projects with WWF.

After six years we have turned over the initial Escola Kumar site to the grateful owner who intends to continue similar holistic activities there in collaboration with us. As awareness of the potential impacts of climate change grows so has the demand for demonstration and resource centers where people can learn how to adapt and acquire skills for resilience to secure local food, water, and shelter as well as strengthening community resources during a time of transition and likely stress. In response to this demand we are encouraging others to create resilience and simple living skills centers on the island. To support the transition we are developing resources materials and documentation to provide inspiration, encouragement and practical information on how to design, initiate, and implement these types of centers. Our intent is to collaboratively create informative videos and booklets so that we can share transition steps that can be informative, accessible, and inspirational to larger audiences.

The activities that are currently supported through Escola Kumar - PermaMed have expanded into seven principal programs which are cover in more detail this report below with a checklist of recent and current activities at the end of the report.

- I. Holistic Regenerative Education - Permaculture and Resilience in Schools and for Educators
- II. Youth in Permaculture and Pathway Program for Emerging Adults - YiP, Jep and ReLeaP programs
- III. Holistic and Resilient Living, Skills, and Community - Permaculture Design Certification (PDC)
- IV. Demonstrating Resilience Designing Community Sites and Climate Change Resource Centers
- V. Supporting a Web for Cooperation and Collaborative Networks- MEM, JEP, WWF, FFF....
- VI. Water is Life- Collaborating with S’Aigo and Save the Med to protect our waters with permaculture
- VII. Inspiration though Connection in Nature and Arts - rewilding, deep ecology, and creativity



I. Holistic Education, Permaculture and Sustainability in Schools Program:

This year we were honored to have been invited to present keynote talks and workshops about our permaculture in school programs at the International Children in Permaculture Conference in London (July-2019) and Permaculture and Educators Conference Barcelona (May 2019). We also provided permaculture workshops at Universidad de la Islas Baleares (UIB) this spring at a three day conference on education and sustainability to over 6000 students and teachers. Escola Kumar has been able to expand its holistic education teacher training program and is now working directly with students and teachers in several new schools, taking the program beyond introducing ideas to co-designing regenerative school grounds and bringing permaculture and sustainable practices into the school curriculum. Using permaculture ethics and principles students and teachers are co-creating schools that can act as an inspiring example to the communities around them.

Through collaborative, project driven and hands on programs, teachers and children alike get excited about growing food and planting trees in the school grounds, building wildlife pounds, useful furniture and play structures with recycled materials such as pallets, and learning new ways of collaborative planning, decision making and communication. We have a collaborative pilot program with a school community to develop a permaculture whole-systems design for the entire school grounds and curriculum. The children are participating in the design and implementation process and creating a manual to help subsequent classes carry on this project. Escola Kumar is also developing education kits and video resources with the teachers and students to be used in classrooms. In addition we continue to support the first permaculture certification program for handicapped youths with 400 hours of training in gardening, food preparation, upcycling, and useful handicrafts and skills. This fall the first graduates received their Permaculture Certifications in a moving community ceremony. Many of the teachers working with us have received prior training at Escola Kumar through our Teachers Training program to prepare them to bring these new ideas and projects into their schools and communities.





II. Youth in Permaculture and Pathway Programs:

Young people, are emerging as adults at a time when the world is facing serious challenges such as climate change, increasing pollution, depletion of resources and social inequality and unrest. Escola Kumar, PermaMed and Youth in Permaculture- Jovenes en Permacultura (JeP) are collaborating to empower youths and emerging adults with experience, skills, mentorship, and resources to build meaningful and rewarding lives that are based on connection, creativity, activism, and service to their communities.

Youths who have been supported through our Permaculture Pathway Programs, are now spearheading community projects of their own, with our support. Their activities include leading over 500 youths in a Fridays for Future climate change march in the center of Palma and organizing a music and permaculture events for hundreds of participants, such as “Roots and Permaculture”, offering youth run permaculture workshops and music for youths and the community. We provide guidance, resources and financial support to empower these efforts.

We are also collaborating recently with other organizations in europe to provide youths experiential learning and cultural exchange in ecovillages and community projects. We are currently supporting four of these Youth Exchanges as partners with partial funding from Euramus. Youth in Permaculture (YiP) is now a european wide organization that was co founded by youths from our Pathway Program is now creating local national chapters include one in Spain, Jóvenes en Permacultura (JeP). YiP and JeP have been invited to present our programs at European Convergences both last summer in Ireland and this May, 2019, in Spain.





Escola Kumar/PermaMed has been organizing successful youth exchange programs with other countries to bring hundreds of youths together for several week intensives; providing tools, encouragement and space for them to explore positive ways they can create their future. In these programs youths co-plan the curriculum and teach the program in a peer to peer collaborative educational environment that is very popular. Topics include sociocracy, permaculture design, design web for decision making and planning, holistic management, lots of hands on workshops, on growing and fermenting foods, how to save and use alternative energies, bioconstruction and upcycling working with hand tools, alternative economics and business life planning, meditation, creative arts and more.

The youths work in groups from each bioregion to bring together what they learned using permaculture holistic design to create projects to be implemented in their home countries. The projects are then presented to the whole group. Many of these projects are now actually in progress. The participants receive Gaia Youth Certifications (the first of its kind offered in Europe). We have four more youth exchanges planned for 2019- 2020. As a result of these projects we have been invited to co-create, with other prominent european partners, a three year Regenerative Youth Leadership Program (ReLeaP) empowering youth into leadership roles to cocreate a resilient and sustainable world.

Youths from the Pathway Program are being interviewed on radio, television and are publishing articles in leading magazines such as Eco-Habitar and Permaculture Magazine about their experience. Through Escola Kumar youths lead workshops for other young people in collaboration with local youth initiatives, La Akademia and Friends of the Earth, Roots in Permaculture, and other organizations. Last September, 30 youths came together for a European-wide celebration: "Day of Sustainable Communities in Europe" at Escola Kumar and took part in permaculture workshops on sustainable living lead by youths in our program. At the end of March these youths have organized a large celebration "Roots and Permaculture" providing permaculture workshops, activities, and music for the community for over 300 participants. We have received youth groups from outside the island this June over 45 students from Menorca visited Escola Kumar and participated in workshops presented by youths from our Pathway Program.

Escola Kumar youths also participated in several "Initiation into Emerging Responsible and Free Adults" workshop offered by Clinton Callahan, an internationally renowned adult initiation facilitator in the sustainable communities movement. Youths have also been involved in this years Education por la Vida Celebration in October as participants in a round table discussion on education, as volunteers, and presenting videos they had created of sustainability projects in Mallorca to the attendees. They are continuing the development of the video program "Interviews with Elders in the Sustainability Movement" and have added new interviews into the series.



III. Holistic Living and Community Transition program: Escola Kumar- PermaMed have graduated over 180 people through its intensive eighty hour permaculture certification program. We been able to expand our range of workshops, talks, and certified courses, as well as resources to provide awareness, encouragement, and practical skills to citizens, community leaders, educators and families who want to improve their lives and communities. By building awareness and resilience we can help people become the change they wish to see in the world.

In 2019 we are offered numerous community workshop including: seasonal organic food gardening, food forest gardening, creating wildlife sanctuary habitats on private and public properties, creating compost and vermicompost from worms, soil conservation and flood control, urban permaculture for city and school yard food gardens and more. To build awareness of why and how to lower our carbon footprints in response to the increasing concerns regarding climate change, we are providing workshops on energy use and reducing carbon footprints, solar cooking and small scale solar energy production and cooperatives, building rocket stoves, making and using biochar, electric car coops,

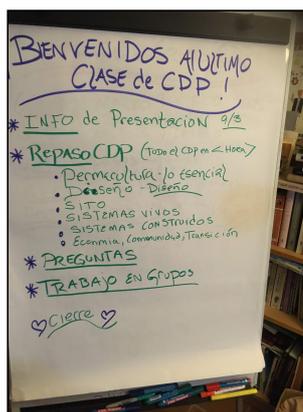


and alternative transportation, and energy conservation. In response to drought and flooding events that are increasing in number and intensity, we are offering workshops on water harvesting, filtering, greywater use, storage, irrigation efficiencies, soil building and protection, and flood control. In the last year we also offered an intensive multi-week workshop for NGO leaders on Mallorca in horizontal governance and sociocracy with support from a leading expert teacher from England. We also offered workshops in Transition Towns, community networks, and setting up cooperatives and alternative community based currencies.



The most intensive life shifting course we continue to offer is a 80 hour in depth holistic Permaculture Design Certification course, or PDC, that is taught over several months and results in a series of group-supported projects to be implemented successfully in education centers, homes, and communities. This holistic living course covers major aspects of living sustainably including; food production and sovetry, soil and water management, transitioning to renewable energy and appropriate technologies, holistic management planning and decision making for projects, tools for better more inclusive communication and organization, alternative funding and economic strategies and more. All of these topics are tied together through permaculture design ethics and principles providing participants a more resilient and creative framework for their dream projects, lives, and communities.

It is encouraging to see that many of the recent graduates from our PDC courses are putting their projects into practice. Participants have created several alternative education and cooperative living centers on Mallorca as well as alternative education programs in their communities and villages. Others have started businesses creating gardens, biochar and local food coops. We completed a PDC in March 2019 and will be offering tow more this fall-winter. One of them within a school program. We are able to offer youth, school teachers and minorities full or partial scholarship thanks to generous grants from foundations. The course is facilitated by experts and teachers in the permaculture community.





IV. Living Demonstration Sites and Resources: Demonstration sites offer real-life tangible examples that include hands-on experience of how we can transition to a sustainable, and as Satish Kumar puts it a “simpler, more elegant and rewarding life”. From 2013 to 2019, Escola Kumar developed such an inspiration site that reflected holistic resilient living at an accessible scale for visitors to experience and learn from. Participants could learn hands on- how to grow food, harvest, storage, and reuse water, use solar and alternative energy, use bioconstruction to reform and build, and reduce consumerism and waste, and regenerate soils and create wildlife habitat. The site also offers a community resource library that provides hand tools, seeds, plants, compost, biochar, informational resources, as well as books and reference materials, educational kits – all providing inspiration to the local community.

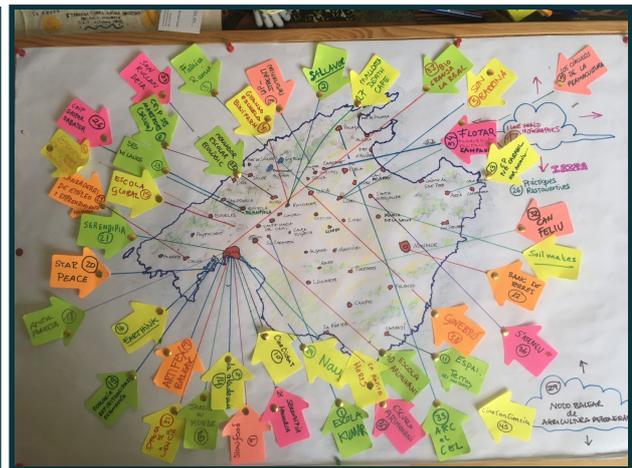
Over the last six years we offered open days at the sites for people to come and enjoy, learn, and be inspired to take away ideas for their own homes, communities, and schools. The small size of the site (3000 sq meters) made it accessible for visitors to transition what they experience into their own lives. The power of thousands of people making these changes in their lives adds up and can have a positive impact on whole communities inspire hope as well as lowering ecological footprints.

The center also has been honored by visits from inspiring teachers and authors in the sustainability movement in 2018 including Satish Kumar and his wife June who are the inspiration behind Escola Kumar. We have also hosted Jon Janda from the Pun Pun Center of self reliance, Rakesh Rootsman Rak from the Permaculture Teachers Cooperative, and Heather Jo Flores from the Womens in Permaculture Guild. In May we will be hosting Darren Doherty and Morag Gamble, a promente permaculture teachers from Australia. They all offered encouragement and useful advice for the benefit of the Escola Kumar project and encourage the development of more demonstration sites. Escola Kumar -PermaMed resources are now held at other demonstration sites Artifex Balear and Son Barrina - a forest garden demonstration project on an organic farm where people can come and help plant and care for a growing food forest. There are several other sites we can use some of them inspired through Escola Kumar other such as Sa Padrisa have been an inspiration to us for many years.





V. A Hub for Cooperation and Collaborative Networks: The Escola Kumar provides meeting, working, and visualization spaces where people can gather to create and develop projects, share ideas and resources – all of which help to create a supportive network. This year spring we were invited to join 50 other organizations through MEM an initiative build collaboration among local organizations. We also provide support and volunteers for the annual Tierra Alma y Sociedad events in October, which bring to together hundreds of educators and activities to support holistic education, living and sustainability. We continue to support the Som Energia, a regional solar energy cooperative that offers solar energy alternatives to consumers who are on the grid. Escola Kumar provides space for the regional and local cooperative meetings and has participated in educational outreach to schools and through public fairs and converfoces in collaboration with local government and university. This included a recent international conference on solar cooking ECOSOL offered through the University of the Balearic Islands that was attended by participants from five continents and a dozen countries. We presented the opening talk to the conference on using solar cooking in schools and as a sustainability education tool. It was very inspiring to receive recognition and encouragement from such a broad audience. This May we will be providing workshops over a three day sustainability in education conference at the university.



We are also supporting other local groups through collaborative projects with Friends of the Earth community outreach and youth programs, the Akademia (a alternative education youth group), Serendipia, an adult education group, La Coordinadora-a community support group for handicapped youths, the Mallorca Center for Resilience, MEM a Mallorca community network of networks and many more. Internationally, Escola Kumar is also participating as a collaborator on European and global initiatives such as Youth in Permaculture, International Permaculture Educators, European Permaculture

Association, Iberian Permaculture Association, and so forth. We have also attended meetings and international and national convergences to which we often bring youths and educators as co-participants. As a result new partnerships are arising such as a budding biodiversity, rewilding, and marine permaculture project in collaboration with “Save the Med”, and a rehydrating mediterranean landscapes initiative with S’Aigo Mallorca.



VI: New collaborative projects “Save the Med” and S’Aigo, Mallorca.

The southern Mediterranean is suffering from drought and extreme storms attributed to climate change. These events are expected to increase in their severity. PermaMed is collaborating with a new project started by PermaMed members, S’Aigo, Mallorca, which aims to help rehydrate and restore landscapes and homes on Mallorca and southern Spain. In addition the program will train youths in skills to implement these design projects.

Another budding collaborative project develop out of our certification courses is with “Save the Med”, a large conservation organization which has approached us to include permaculture into their projects. We are developing biodiversity, restoration, rewilding, and marine permaculture projects and education outreach materials with them in 2019.





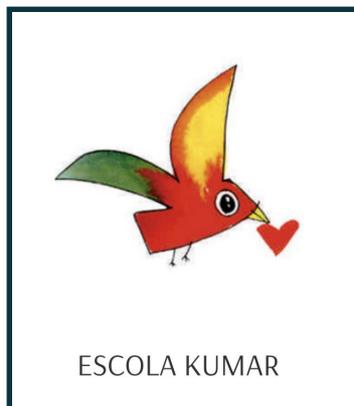
VII. Inspiration through Connection, Consciousness, and Creativity in Nature and Arts:

Escola Kumar is a school without walls, providing guided experiences for participants through the gardens, mountains, countryside, pathways, and shoreline waters of Mallorca. Reflection, appreciation, and inspiration in nature are central to all our activities. During challenging times the need to cultivate inspiration from both nature and art that is critical to avoid being overwhelmed and discouraged. The challenges we face are great, but the resources we have from the gifts of nature and hidden in ourselves are greater. At Escola Kumar we encourage time in contemplation with nature and expression through the arts in most of our activities. The first principle of Permaculture is to observe and interact. We are bringing this principle into our education programs in schools. Students and teachers are offered methods for exploring various ways to develop a profound and intimate relationship with nature. Expression of this relationship through the arts deepens the tie and can help us process and bind our experiences creatively and beautifully thus sharing and inspiring others around us. Escola Kumar is creating this experience throughout the workshops we are giving. In 2019 we will be including meditation, reflection and interactive art spaces into the demonstration site at Escola Kumar as well as into the school projects we are supporting.

Thank You for your support:

The projects and progress described in this report is possible through the support of many volunteers and the generous donations from participants and grants from Foundation Education por la Vida.

Thank you!



Activities List 2019

I. Holistic Education, Permaculture and Sustainability in Schools Program:

- Working daily directly with teachers and students in five new schools
- Building permaculture and sustainable practices (including SDG) into the school curriculum
- Co-creating with students a whole-systems design and implementation for the school grounds
- Co-creating video stories and manuals to help subsequent classes carry on school site project
- Co-creating education kits and video instructions resources to be shared with other schools
- Providing support for the first permaculture certification program for handicapped youths
- Providing teacher training and mentoring to educators and parents
- Presenting our education and permaculture programs at conferences such as: Children in Permaculture Conference (London- July 2019), Permaculture and Education Conference- Barcelona (May 2019), present three day workshop at the University of Balearic Islands UIB)

II. Youth in Permaculture (YiP and JeP), Pathway Programs:

- Providing resources, mentorship, and guidance to youth wanting to be the change they want to see in the world. This support includes regular trainings, meetings, job opportunities, and events such as “Roots and Permaculture”
- Creating international travel and learning opportunities through Erasmus Youth Exchange partnerships with other ecovillages, farms and centers for youth
- Co-developing a European wide Regenerative Youth Leadership Program-ReLeaP that provide leadership training and resources to youths over next three year program (2019-2021)
- Co-creating an International Gaia Youth Certification program (the first of its kind offered in Europe) with youth worker representative from Estonia, Brasil, India, Denmark, and the UK
- Supporting and strengthening the new international Youth in Permaculture (YiP), and National “Jovenes en Permaculture” (JeP) programs
- Providing guidance, training and support for university students initiating a Freedom Fridays Climate Change youth movement on Mallorca, including providing training, organizational support, facilitation, sociocracy training, connection with other organizations and other opportunities
- Providing assistance teaching training and opportunities youth to support teachers and teach younger children in school programs
- Supporting youth organized events such as “Roots in Permaculture” music and permaculture event
- Empowering youths to published articles in leading magazines such as Eco-Habitar, and have their voices heard on radio show and televisions shows
- Collaborating with other youth organizations such as Friends of the Earth for joint events
- Provide Emerging Responsible and Free Adults” workshop offered by Clinton Callahan
- Involving youths participation and support in Education por la Vida celebration in October
- Supporting video intergenerational story program “Interviews with Elders in the Sustainability Movement”

III. Holistic Living and Community Transition education and support program:

- Offering full life changing PDC certification programs (over 180 graduates)
- Offering monthly workshops, talks and classes on sustainability, forest gardening, crafts, food sovereignty, sociocracy, climate change mitigation, transition towns, etc..
- Offering courses and workshops from visiting experts and renowned teachers

IV. Living Demonstration Sites and Resources:

- Creating a Permaculture Demonstration sites that offer real-life tangible examples of living sustainability with a low ecological footprint-through all systems- energy, water, food etc..
- Providing a growing resource library of books, tools, seeds, plants, materials, and teaching resource kits and outreach materials to the community
- Providing volunteer opportunities to co- create and maintain the site and hold regular visits and open days at the sites for people to come and enjoy, learn, and be inspired to take away ideas for their own homes, communities, and schools
- Providing a venue for visiting teachers such Satish Kumar and his wife June, Jon Janda from the Pun Pun Center of self reliance, Rakesh Rootsman Rak from the Permaculture Teachers Cooperative, Heather Jo Flores from the Womens in Permaculture Guild, etc..
- Joining other demonstration sites as a Case Study for RetroSuburbia inspired by permaculture founder David Holmgren

V. A Hub for Cooperation and Collaborative Networks:

- Providing support and volunteers for the annual Tierra Alma y Sociedad events in October
- Supporting the Som Energia, a regional solar energy cooperative that offers solar energy alternatives to consumers who are on the grid
- Participating at community public fairs and converrfeces in collaboration with local government and university, such as an international conference on solar cooking ECOSOL offered through the University of the Balearic Islands
- Collaborating on projects with local organizations such as Friends of the Earth, the Akademia (an alternative education youth group), Serendipia, an adult education group, MEM, FFF, XR and others. Participating as a collaborator on European and global initiatives such as Youth in Permaculture, International Permaculture Educators, European Permaculture Association, Iberian Permaculture Association, Jóvenes en Permacultura etc..

VI. Collaborating with S'Aigo and "Save the Med":

- Supporting the development of a professional and educational initiative S'Aigo that focuses on rehydrating and restoring landscapes and homes- designing and implementing projects
- Developing a new collaborative project with Save the Med that includes increasing biodiversity, rewilding, and developing marine permaculture programs

VII. Inspiration though Connection, Consciousness, and Creativity in Nature and Arts

- Escola Kumar is a school without walls, providing guided experiences for participants through the gardens, mountains, countryside, pathways, and shoreline waters of Mallorca.
- Reflection, appreciation, and inspiration in nature are central to all our activities. During challenging times the need to cultivate inspiration from both nature and art that is critical to avoid being overwhelmed and discouraged. We include meditation, crafts, art and music in our workshops and events.

Next Steps for the Escola Kumar Project 2020+ Documenting Past Accomplishments and Reflecting on the Future

Possible project options: Based on demand and primary needs

- Educators and schools: Resources to share, guide, and inspire
- Youth and youth activists: Resources, mentors, experience and collaborative events
- Resilience centers for Mallorca: providing support for climate change adaptation-regeneration

Supporting Educators: Providing Resources to expand permaculture in schools programs:

Permaculture - Holistic Education Manual: offering practical guidance, resources, and activities to implement change for educators. Include case studies and active examples to inspire.

Hands on activities for projects in schools through videos created by youths and teachers

Develop a teacher training to help train educators and strength in school programs

All these materials made available via easy to download and printable web access

Supporting Youth:

JeP: Support youth with organizational resources to develop Jovenes en Permacultura

Events: Support youths in creating events to bring permaculture and holistic living to youths

Provide FFF and XR youth activists with tools, resources, materials and mentorship

Encourage intergenerational activism through events, discussion, and interview video program

Supporting Resilience Centers for climate change adaptation, improving the quality of life, skills and community building on Mallorca

Mallorca needs climate change resources for adaptation and regeneration

Documentation of how to build and implement reliance centers through download web

Publication in magazine articles, manuals, and booklets of Escola Kumar and similar projects

Collaborating with other organizations:

Continue to work with organizations such as MEM to develop a strong network of support and resilience in the face of climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation

Rewilding and inspiration in nature:

Encourage programs to bring people in deeper connection with nature: such as excursions and rewilding and reforestation programs. Collaboration with Save the Med and WWF.

Make Satish Kumar and Escola Kumar resources more accessible:

Expand and update the Escola Kumar web page on the poc a poc website to include resources and program updates and information

Reflect on next steps for developing Escola Kumar Project:

Consider decentralized module of school without walls coordinating projects and courses using a network of collaborating sites presented on a web page with resources and calendar.

Create a design and ideal quality list for a teaching and resource center to help guide the selection and development of a new site.

