

Desert-Wise Landscape Tour Essay Contest 2022 Entry by Isaiah & Manuela Hesslup

Hi MBCA,

I want to thank you very much for this tour. It inspired us to see we are not alone in thinking ahead. Me and my wife Manuela are Certified Permaculture Designers and now our Son-in-Law Daughter and their 3 Children (11-1years of age) have moved in from Oregon with us. They are from an opposite abundance of forests and here to the abundance of the desert. To see Mr. Martinez commitment to the long view motivates us to plant for the future and how he went from nothing like us, to his vision. Then we went to the Ocotillo House and met Mrs. Armstrong she was very informative and come to find out her husband came out to our property to consult us on wrapping our house in Straw bales due to budget constraints we decided to go with Adobe. However it was great to see the state of the art in Straw bale construction. Then we went out to the Wold's and our fellow Transition Joshua Tree Permaculture Team Member Nicolas Holmes designed their layout it's very impressive and we were able to get some insights on how to elevate our 2,500 gallon water tank because we are off grid. Then we went to JBWD to see the Demonstration Garden and how it has grown in the last few years it's amazing how there's so many beautiful plants and people in the desert. MDLT is another project that has grown the Permaculture Team did a Permablitz with the musician Polish Ambassador from the Joshua Tree Music Festival and it was successful although they have gone to the next level with the Gabion walls dividing the Native Plants, Edible Herbs and Pollinators. We are glad so to say we live in the desert with it's people, plants and culture.