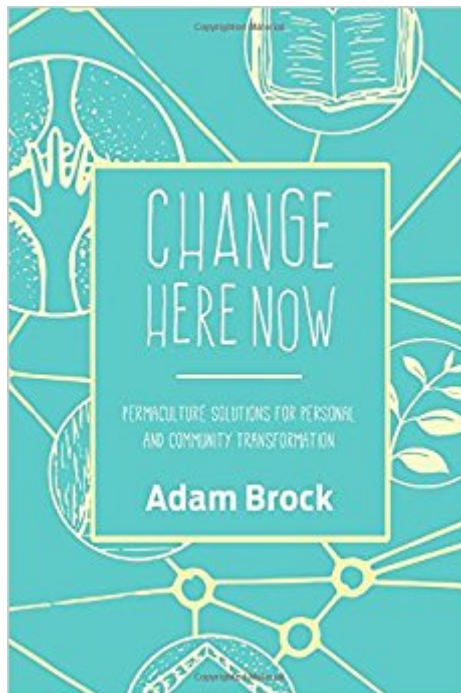




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Change Here Now: Permaculture Solutions For Personal And Community Transformation



Synopsis

Award-winning social entrepreneur and permaculturalist Adam Brock draws from ecology, sociology, community economics, social justice, and indigenous practices the world over to present more than eighty proven solutions for building healthy communities. Using the "pattern language" framework developed by architect Christopher Alexander and his colleagues in the 1970s, Brock outlines strategies for redesigning our social and economic systems to mimic nature's resilience and abundance. — Practical, innovative, and visually compelling, this book presents actionable and easy-to-understand tools for a compassionate and methodical approach to building better communities. — Sidebars and diagrams supplement the text, while case studies illustrate endeavors such as starting a business, launching a social change project, or setting personal goals. Brock suggests ways to engage disempowered communities in a meaningful and authentic way, and draws on eight years of in-depth research and investigation to demonstrate what makes communities work at the most fundamental level. Anyone looking for concrete solutions to many of the social and economic ills that plague our current society will discover a rich resource for growth and change.

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Customer Reviews

"Change Here Now" is an excellent contribution to a realm of permaculture desperately needing attention and active development. — The social ecosystem patterns Adam Brock lays out are intriguing and relevant. — I look forward to testing, living into, and growing through the patterns in

this book."•Dave Jacke, A veteran permaculturalist and co-author of Edible Forest Gardens

Adam Brock is an award-winning social entrepreneur and permaculturalist based in his hometown of Denver, CO. His work lies at the intersection of urban agriculture, sustainable business, and social change. In 2009, Adam co-founded The GrowHaus, a food justice nonprofit, and served as its Director of Operations until 2014. He is active in the local and national permaculture communities, serving on the board of the Denver Permaculture Guild and organizing committee of the inaugural North American Permaculture Convergence. He has been a TEDxMileHigh speaker, a contributor and guest editor of Permaculture Design Magazine (formerly Permaculture Activist), and serves on Denver's Sustainable Food Policy Council.

Handbook for understanding and surviving the 21st Century. Not sure if there's any ideas out there that are new. But this book may surprise you. As an avid environmentalist, non-violent communication advocate, former community activist in San Francisco in the 1970's, I feel I know a thing or three about his subject matter. I have nothing but praise for the simple ideas presented in Brock's book, as well as the important visual aids illustrating the ideas. What's not so simple is: Making Them Work. Brock's Book is groundbreaking in it's scope - the way he's cleverly written it, the concepts become a handy template that may be utilized like a key to fit several fields and many different situations. Kudos to Brock & to his dear endeavoring readers. The book can be a personal journey if you approach it in a reflective manner. Or, as it was intended, a way to build community, organizational unity, villages, nations, states, countries & a world-connected approach to living together. A MUST READ.

I wasn't exactly sure what to expect from this book but since I have a growing interest in permaculture, figured it would probably repeat the information I have in many other books. I'm pleased to report that I was entirely wrong. This book is friggin awesome. It takes the concepts of permaculture and applies it to the community and even social phenomena at large. The topic is timely, the ideas both innovative and interesting but best of all, it goes beyond mere theory and into actionable items. Frankly, I liked everything about this book and look forward to another installment.

The permaculture movement was and is a revolutionary concept with potential to change the world. Permaculture was a contraction of words: originally "permanent-agriculture" and later expanded to

include "permanent-culture". I consider these twin sisters of the movement - equally important in addressing the concerns that permaculture intended to address. Up to this point, the movement has focused primarily on the mechanics of transforming our approach to agriculture and how to live in harmony with nature. One sister has received appropriate attention while the other has been neglected. "Change Here Now" offers some explanation for why this is the case and attempts to bring appropriate focus back to the important aspect of how we interact in harmony with each other, not only how we interact in harmony with the rest of nature. In clear and straightforward language, Brock helps us think about and find solutions to challenges we face in human interaction. In an unbiased manner, he draws upon a variety of pragmatic real life examples that have proven to establish sustainable cultures: from drawing parallels to Amish and hippie communities to dethroning science as an ultimate authority while recognizing the wisdom we can glean from ancient civilizations. It is not a philosophical or conceptual book that you might read chapter by chapter, rather it is a how-to practical book utilizing modules that you apply depending on your scenario and what you want to accomplish. However, you could certainly read the book cover to cover as I have and there is sufficient explanation and philosophy behind each concept presented. The amount and breadth of content is extensive. I'd refer to it as more of a handbook or manual than a traditional book. "Change Here Now" is not a broad treatment of the topic of permaculture in the traditional sense, so if that is what you are looking for then look elsewhere (however, Brock cleverly uses many existing concepts of permaculture methodologies and applies them as analogies in the cultural realm). On the other hand, if you are interested in furthering your knowledge of the often neglected and important aspect of permanent culture, then this handbook is for you. In a first ever approach for this topic, it offers useful tools to bring about a positive change in how we interact and work together - consistent with permaculture principles. If you embrace permaculture concepts, or want to understand how principles could bring about a sustainable cultural transformation, then add this one to your collection. Reading the book has challenged many beliefs that I held unwittingly that would interfere with a sustainable culture, causing me to think about and reconsider those beliefs.

I have a deep interest in permaculture in the agricultural sense, found *A Pattern Language* (an architecture and town planning book from 1970 that pointed out the living patterns that people use) fascinating, and am very interested in how to change the world into a better place, so the description of this book sounded like it would be something I would love. Instead, I found large parts of the book rather tedious. Not that I think they would be tedious to everyone. The main focus of the book is on working with people: getting the best from people,

getting groups to work together efficiently (which changes depending on the size of the group and what it's trying to do), getting people to express themselves but also to listen, etc. I've met a lot of that in presentations I've been sucked into in various volunteer groups I've been part of, and if I'm lucky I'll never have to go to another one. I'm a loner; tell me what to do and let me go do it. But if you need to start a group to get something done, the author presents ways of making it more efficient- and at the same time, more people oriented. And some of the things are as simple as rearranging the chairs. The book is easy to read in some ways; the chapters are very, very short- sometimes only two pages- so you have natural places to stop and think about what you just read. The author uses some vocabulary that most people won't have, but he gives the definitions (like, what is *Öesankofa*? I didn't know). The rest is everyday language. So, if you need to get people working together, invest in this book along with your Robert's Rules of Order. Just don't get it thinking it'll help you create sustainability in your yard!

I just can't get too excited about this book. I suppose it has some good solutions for more effective communities, but the language is rather boring and plain hard to follow at times. Many "chapters" are only 2 or 3 pages long, and the subjects will no doubt be foreign to most readers. Some chapter headings are "Nemawashi," "Sankofa," "Gadugi," and "Biophilia." Strange indeed. Unless you're into the permaculture scene, you probably want to skip this book.

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