

Bill Mollison

Quotes

*People, Thinking, World, Animal, Agriculture, Permaculture, Simple, Years,
Earth, Water, Self, Design, Eerie, Forests, Want, Country, Order, Ifs, Home,
Together*

Though the problems of the world are increasingly complex, the solutions remain embarrassingly simple.

~Bill Mollison

I teach self-reliance, the world's most subversive practice. I teach people how to grow their own food, which is shockingly subversive. So, yes, it's seditious. But it's peaceful sedition.

~Bill Mollison

The only ethical decision is to take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children.

~Bill Mollison

We're only truly secure when we can look out our kitchen window and see our food growing and our friends working nearby.

~Bill Mollison

Women are the holders of all knowledge, everything a man knows he stole from a woman.

~Bill Mollison

The American lawn uses more resources than any other agricultural industry in the world. It uses more phosphates than India and puts on more poisons than any other form of agriculture.

~Bill Mollison

If you only do one thing, collect rainwater.

~Bill Mollison

You don't have a snail problem, you have a duck deficiency.

~Bill Mollison

We are surrounded by insurmountable opportunities

~Bill Mollison

Wealth is a deep understanding of the natural world.

~Bill Mollison

If we lose the forests, we lose our only teachers.

~Bill Mollison

Stupidity is an attempt to iron out all differences, and not to use them or value them creatively.

~Bill Mollison

Choose your friends from people who you like what they do - even though you mightn't like what they say.

~Bill Mollison

I can easily teach people to be gardeners, and from them, once they know how to garden, you'll get a philosopher.

~Bill Mollison

The worst thing about permaculture is that it's extremely successful, but it has no center, and no hierarchy.

~Bill Mollison

If you let the world roll on the way it's rolling, you're voting for death. I'm not voting for death.

~Bill Mollison

Permaculture creates a cultivated ecology, which is designed to produce more human and animal food than is generally found in nature.

~Bill Mollison

The agriculture taught at colleges between 1930 and 1980 has caused more damage on the face of the Earth than any other factor.

~Bill Mollison

Compressed air can provide limitless amounts of clean energy using technology we have had for hundreds of years.

~Bill Mollison

If you're a simple person today, and want to live simply, that is awfully seditious. And to advise people to live simply is more seditious still.

~Bill Mollison

To accumulate wealth, power or land beyond one's needs in a limited world is to be truly immoral, be it as an individual, an institution, or a nation-state.

~Bill Mollison

A really failing society has a lot of rules (or laws).

~Bill Mollison

There is no more time-wasting process than that of believing people will act, and then finding that they will not.

~Bill Mollison

Permaculture is an integrated, evolving system of perennial and self-perpetuating plants and animal species useful to man.

~Bill Mollison

Few people today muck around in earth, and when on international flights, I often find I have the only decently dirty fingernails.

~Bill Mollison

Permaculture challenges what we're doing and thinking - and to that extent it's sedition.

~Bill Mollison

I think the world would function extremely well with millions of little cooperative groups, all in relation to each other.

~Bill Mollison

We are sufficient to do everything possible to heal this Earth.

~Bill Mollison

Pollution is an unused resource.

~Bill Mollison

I gave one permaculture course in Botswana, and now my students are out in the bloody desert in Namibia teaching Bushmen - whose language nobody can speak - to be very good permaculture people.

~Bill Mollison

I think it's pointless asking questions like "Will humanity survive?" It's purely up to people - if they want to, they can, if they don't want to, they won't.

~Bill Mollison

We have to let nature put what's left together, and see what it can come up with to save our ass.

~Bill Mollison

Permaculture is something with a million heads. It's a way of thinking which is already loose, and you can't put a way of thinking back in the box.

~Bill Mollison

Most biologists, (says Vogel, 1981) seem to have heard of the boundary layer, but they have a fuzzy notion that it is a discrete region, rather than the discrete notion that it is a fuzzy region.

~Bill Mollison

You can't live like a Bushman or an Aborigine anymore, so they've got to rethink the whole basis of how they're going to live. Permaculture

helps you do that easily.

~Bill Mollison

If you lend your skills to other systems that you don't really believe in, then you might as well never have lived. You haven't expressed yourself.

~Bill Mollison

If you're dealing with an assembly of biological systems, you can bring the things together, but you can't connect them.

~Bill Mollison

You can't cooperate by knocking something about or bossing it or forcing it to do things.

~Bill Mollison

The important thing is not to do any agriculture whatsoever, and particularly to make the modern agricultural sciences a forbidden area - they're worse than witchcraft, really.

~Bill Mollison

When the idea of permaculture came to me, it was like a shift in the brain, and suddenly I couldn't write it down fast enough.

~Bill Mollison

I probably lead a very spoiled life, because I travel from people interested in permaculture to people interested in permaculture. Some of them are tribal, and some of them are urban, and so on.

~Bill Mollison

Anything that's left that's remotely like wilderness should be left strictly alone. We have no business there any more. It's not going to save you to go in and cut the last old-stand forests.

~Bill Mollison

You won't get cooperation out of a hierarchical system. You get enforced directions from the top, and nothing I know of can run like that.

~Bill Mollison

I'd come into town from the bush - after 28 years of field work in natural systems - and become an academic. So I turned my attention to humans, much as I had to possums in the forests.

~Bill Mollison

Type 1 Error: When we settle into wilderness, we are in conflict with so many life forms that we have to destroy them to exist. Keep out of the bush. It is already in good order.

~Bill Mollison

Use all the skills you have in relation to others - and that way we can do anything.

~Bill Mollison

If people want some guidance, I say, just look at what people really do. Don't listen to them that much.

~Bill Mollison

The extinction rate is so huge now, we're to the stage where we've got to set up recombinant ecologies. There are no longer enough species left, anywhere, to hold the system together.

~Bill Mollison

Most modern homes are simply uninhabitable without electricity - you couldn't flush the toilet without it. It's a huge dependency situation.

~Bill Mollison

People question me coming through the American frontier these days. They ask, "What's your occupation?" I say, "I'm just a simple gardener."

And that is deeply seditious.

~Bill Mollison

Instead of physicists teaching physics, physicists should go home and see what physics applies to their home.

~Bill Mollison

Women spend the money of society on its goods.

~Bill Mollison

My students are constantly amazing me.

~Bill Mollison

Another thing I find extremely eerie is that when people build a house, they almost exactly get it wrong. They don't just get it partly wrong, they get it dead wrong.

~Bill Mollison

I think mine is a very rich life.

~Bill Mollison

When you get deep ecologists who are philosophers, and they drive cars and take newspapers and don't grow their own vegetables, in fact they're not deep ecologists - they're my enemies.

~Bill Mollison

I could never teach people to be philosophers - and if I did, you could never make a gardener out of them.

~Bill Mollison

We don't have to suppose we need oil, or governments, or anything.

~Bill Mollison

To create a mess in which we perish by our own inaction makes

nonsense of our claim to consciousness and morality

~Bill Mollison

Anarchy would suggest you're not cooperating. Permaculture is urging complete cooperation between each other and every other thing, animate and inanimate.

~Bill Mollison

I think Americans are so poor it's pitiful, because you don't understand the natural world at all.

~Bill Mollison

We have to rethink how we're going to live on this earth - stop talking about the fact that we've got to have agriculture, we've got to have exports, because all that is the death of us.

~Bill Mollison

People do things which I find quite amazing - things I would never have done and can't understand very well.

~Bill Mollison

Trees are responsible for 3/4 of all rains

~Bill Mollison

It is no mere coincidence that there is both an historic and a present relationship between community (people assisting each other) and a poverty of power due to financial recession.

~Bill Mollison

"Should we tamper with nature?" is no longer a question - we've tampered with nature on the whole face of the Earth.

~Bill Mollison

I think we probably have a racial death wish. We don't understand

anything about where we live, and we don't want to.

~Bill Mollison

I guess I would know more about permaculture than most people, and I can't define it. It's multi-dimensional - chaos theory was inevitably involved in it from the beginning.

~Bill Mollison

I believe humanity is a pretty interesting lot, and they're all really busy doing and thinking interesting things.

~Bill Mollison

A house should look after itself - as the weather heats up the house cools down, as the weather cools down the house heats up. It's simple stuff, you know? We've known how to do it for a long time.

~Bill Mollison

That we don't design agriculture to be sustainable is totally eerie. We design it to be a disaster, and of course, we get a disaster.

~Bill Mollison

Anything that's any good is self-perpetuating.

~Bill Mollison

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