



BAREFOOT ARCHITECT
JO PETRONI

Listen to Your Land

- THE PRINTABLE CHECKLIST -



BIO-CLIMATISM, PERMACULTURE,
MINDFULNESS AND LOVE

By Jo's Epistolary at
jopetroni.substack.com

LISTEN TO YOUR LAND

THE CHECKLIST

Every place is unique.

It has both its own **potential** and its own **drawbacks**.

Understanding the land to build on in all of its details is key to taking best advantage of nature's opportunities.

On your next visit to the land you want to start building on, take this checklist with you. It will serve as a guide to be sure you don't miss anything.

Feel free to print out this form or fill it directly on your phone or tablet. Fill it out in as much detail as you can. At home, you will browse through what you have gathered and can get going with your next steps.

I'm Jo, your guide in mindfully designing your own sustainable home. This Checklist is part of my free [Listen to Your Land Course](#), which you can find at jopetroni.substack.com



LET'S BREAK IT DOWN

STEP 1. THE LAND

The general rules and numbers about your land

STEP 3. MAN-MADE ELEMENTS

Anthropogenic elements on your land, like existing buildings, mains etc

STEP 2. NATURAL ELEMENTS

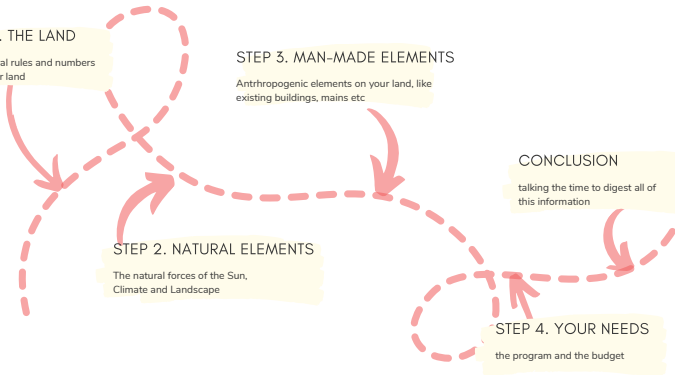
The natural forces of the Sun, Climate and Landscape

CONCLUSION

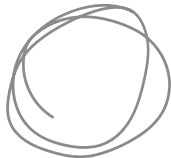
talking the time to digest all of this information

STEP 4. YOUR NEEDS

the program and the budget



STEP 1. THE LAND



THE EXISTING

WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE PROPERTY?

WHAT'S THE ADDRESS?:

WHAT ARE THE POSITIONS OF THE
BIGGEST TREES?

How many are there? (show on plan)

ARE THERE ANY PRE-EXISTING
BUILDINGS ON THE LAND?

How many are there? (show on plan)

STEP 1. THE LAND

WHAT'S THE TOTAL SURFACE OF THE PROPERTY?

What surface can you build on?

WHAT ARE THE MAIN ACCESS ROADS AND MAIN CIRCULATION PATHS ON THE LAND?

Are there any rights of way on the land? (show on plan)

2. THE RULES

WHAT ARE THE GENERAL BUILDING REGULATIONS FOR THIS LAND?

What local rules apply to your land? (maximum height, maximum surface, protection areas etc)

WHAT ARE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAND LIKE?

Boundaries can be opaque or transparent, fence or vegetation, flat or sloped

STEP 2. NATURAL ELEMENTS

I. THE CLIMATE

WHAT IS THE **ORIENTATION** OF THE LAND?

WHAT IS THE **LATITUDE** OF THE LAND?

WHAT IS THE PATH OF THE **SUN** IN THE SKY?

Use the SunLocator app

WHAT IS THE **CLIMATE** LIKE?

(as detailed a description as possible)

WHAT IS THE **CLIMATE CHANGE PREDICTION** FOR THAT AREA?

(you can visit <http://www.impactlab.org/map/>)

STEP 2. NATURAL ELEMENTS

2. EXTREMES

IS THE SITE SAFE FROM **FLOODING**? YES NO DETAILS:

ARE THERE **LANDSLIDES** IN THE AREA? YES NO DETAILS

ARE THERE FREQUENT **DROUGHTS**? YES NO DETAILS

ARE THERE FREQUENT **FIRES** IN THE AREA? YES NO DETAILS

ARE THERE **WILD ANIMALS** ROAMING THE AREA
(DEER, WILD BOAR, BEAR, ETC)? YES NO DETAILS

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM WINTER **TEMPERATURE**?

WHAT IS THE PREDOMINANT **WIND** DIRECTION AND SPEED?



STEP 2. NATURAL ELEMENTS

3. WATER AND LANDSCAPE

IS THERE A NATURAL WATER **SOURCE**?

YES NO DETAILS:

IS THAT WATER SOURCE **AVAILABLE ALL YEAR**
ROUND OR DOES IT DRY UP IN THE SUMMER?

YES NO DETAILS

WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF
ANNUAL **RAINFALL** IN THE AREA?

WHAT IS THE **SLOPE** OF THE LAND?

WHAT IS THE **GEOLOGY** OF THE LAND LIKE?

WHAT IS THE **VEGETATION** LIKE?

STEP 3. MAN-MADE ELEMENTS

I. MAINS

IS THERE A **SEWAGE** SYSTEM ON THE LAND? YES NO DETAILS:

IS THERE **NATURAL GAS** PIPE ON THE LAND? YES NO DETAILS:

IS THERE **INTERNET/TELEPHONE/PHONE** SIGNAL? YES NO DETAILS:





IS THERE **ELECTRICITY** ON THE LAND? YES NO DETAILS:


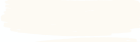


IS THERE **MAINS WATER** ON THE LAND? YES NO DETAILS:

MAKE A LIST OF ANY PRE-EXISTING
MAN-MADE ELEMENTS ON THE LAND
 (a fountain, a pergola, a vegetable patch, etc)

STEP 3. MAN-MADE ELEMENTS

2. RENEWABLE OPPORTUNITIES

IS THERE SUN ENOUGH TO POWER A HOUSE?	YES	NO	DETAILS:	
IS THERE WIND ENOUGH TO POWER A HOUSE?	YES	NO	DETAILS	
IS THERE WATER SPEEDY ENOUGH TO POWER A HOUSE?	YES	NO	DETAILS	
IS A GEOTHERMAL PIPE INSTALLATION POSSIBLE?	YES	NO	DETAILS	

IS THERE WOODLAND NEARBY?	YES	NO	DETAILS:	
IS THERE ANY STONE NEARBY?	YES	NO	DETAILS	
IS THERE ADOBE CLAY NEARBY?	YES	NO	DETAILS	
IS THERE SAND ON THE LAND?	YES	NO	DETAILS	



STEP 3. MAN-MADE ELEMENTS

3. NEIGHBORHOOD

IS THE LAND IN A **SAFE** AREA? YES NO

HOW FAR AWAY IS THE FIRST **NEIGHBOR**?

WHAT IS THE **NEIGHBORHOOD** LIKE?

HOW ARE THE **HOUSES** IN THE AREA?

What's the architecture like? How big are they? How far apart? How much garden do they have? What materials are they built of?

HOW ARE THE **PEOPLE** IN THE AREA?

What's the community like? What size are the families? What do people do? What d they like?

STEP 3. MAN-MADE ELEMENTS

4. SOUNDS

LISTEN. WHERE DO THE SOUNDS
COME FROM?

ARE THEY PLEASANT OR UNPLEASANT?

PLEASANT

NOT

BOTH

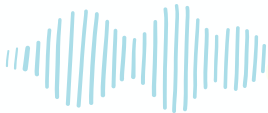
DO THEY VARY THROUGHOUT THE DAY OR
FROM WEEKDAY TO WEEKEND?

THEY VARY

NOT

OTHER

DESCRIBE THE SOUNDS



STEP 4. YOUR NEEDS

I. FEATURES

WHICH OF THESE "CLASSIC" SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES DO YOU WANT TO INCLUDE:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> passive greenhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> photovoltaic panels | <input type="checkbox"/> water collection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pergola | <input type="checkbox"/> green roof | <input type="checkbox"/> rocket stove cooker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> veranda | <input type="checkbox"/> passive house | <input type="checkbox"/> summer kitchen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rocket mass heater | <input type="checkbox"/> triple glazed windows | <input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal cooling and heating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> passive heat mass | <input type="checkbox"/> compost toilet | <input type="checkbox"/> Underground half-buried cold storage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solar water heaters | <input type="checkbox"/> vermicompost | <input type="checkbox"/> Phytoepuration |

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF SELF-RELIANCE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE?

- dependent on the grid
- integrated in my community
- resilient but still on the grid
- full off-grid
- survival style

ARE THERE ANY OTHER FEATURES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE IN YOUR ZONE 0 (CLOSE TO HOME)?



STEP 4. YOUR NEEDS

2. SPIRIT OF THE PLACE

ARE THERE **TREES** SHADING THE BUILDABLE AREA?

Describe them. Are they deciduous? Do you know the species? (You can use the PlantNet app to find out)


WHAT IS THE BEST **VIEW** ON THE LAND?

DESCRIBE THE **ATMOSPHERE** OF THE AREA AS DETAILED AS POSSIBLE.

ARE THERE **TREES** PROTECTING THE BUILDABLE AREA FROM WIND?

CONCLUSIONS

ARE THERE ANY OTHER **OBSERVATIONS**
ABOUT THE LAND AND THE PROJECTS?



You can now start designing your beautiful, healthy, sustainable and affordable home for yourself and your loved ones.

I know you will choose wisely. Don't forget that no decision is set in stone.

There might be changes in your design later on that open up new possibilities. As in life, keep your eyes open and follow the context to guide you. Adapt to changes as they arise.

Don't forget to have fun.

Love,
Jo
The Barefoot Architect



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START DRAWING YOUR OWN DIAGRAM

THE LAND:

The existing elements

The rules

NATURAL ELEMENTS

Climate Extremes

Landscape

Water

MAN-MADE ELEMENTS

Mains

Renewables

Neighborhood

YOUR NEEDS

Shade

Wind protection

