

"Heartbeat" Ecovillage

From Ecovillages

By Diana Leafe Christian

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In April, 2009 I had the honor of traveling to the Philippines to be an instructor in the first Ecovillage Design Education (EDE) course held there. EDE courses, hosted in ecovillages and sustainability education courses worldwide, are projects of [Gaia Education](#), a program of [Global Ecovillage Network \(GEN\)](#)

This first EDE in the Philippines was sponsored by environmental education organization set up by my friend Per ["EcoHydr"](#) in ["Happy Earth Eco-Community Center" in Japan](#)



Once developed, Pintig Ecovillage will use traditional bamboo architecture like these buildings at Center



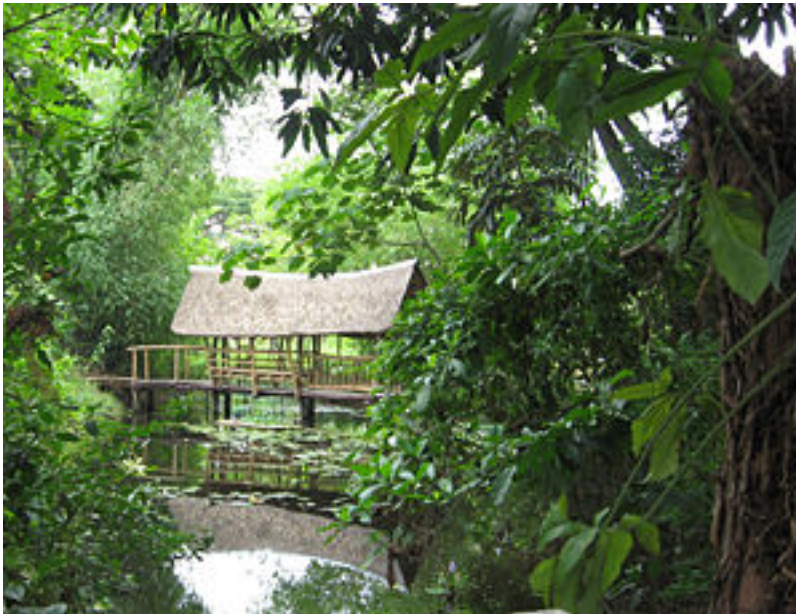
Director of Cabiokid Foundation (Blair and Peter's [Ecovillage Foundation](#)) is Penelope
[Center for Ecozoic Living and Learning \(C.E.L.L\)](#)

“The purpose of the ecovillage is to create a meaningful community of ecologically-aware people living in harmony with nature,” Penelope says. “We envision ecovillage members as being committed to sustainable living, the protection of the bioregion, and willing to practice some degree of self-sufficiency in local food production.” Inspired by the teachings of Thomas Berry, which call for everyone to become protectors and enhancers the environment, the nonprofit founders see Pintig Ecovillage as a way to encourage people to once again feel reverence and joy for life and nature.

Right now the 10-acre property is a flat and nearly treeless area which until recently was a rice field. Bec



□ *Pintig's 10-acre property was a rice field before recent excavation to create water*



□ *Before it was established the site was a go-as Cabiao (Cebu Pintig) area forest*

“This experimental site is a humble attempt to showcase adaptation to climate change and self-reliance



C.E.L.L.'s Brandon Hall shows what Pintig's community building might look like once it's built.



An ariel view of Pintig Ecovillage land (top is point of view from program site) and a winding canal, that is the waterway.

She and her partner John Vermullen, who emigrated to the Philippines from South Africa, plan to open the

I'll be returning to the Philippines in September, 2010, to teach in another EDE course. I can't wait to see

Diana Leafe Christian is publisher and editor of Ecovillages newsletter.