

## **Permaculture Design Certificate Course**

*with*  
**Eng. Rhamis Kent and dr. agr. Ignazio Schettini**

*Fondazione Le Costantine*  
*Otranto – Lecce*  
*Salento*

**11<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

*Join us on October 11th 2015, for the opportunity to learn about permaculture principles and techniques from permaculture specialist Rhamis Kent, whilst experiencing the culture, food and traditions of beautiful Salento peninsula!*

The Permaculture Design Certificate course is an internationally recognized, seventy-two hour course resulting in a Permaculture Design Certificate. It provides an introduction to permaculture design as set forth by movement founder Bill Mollison. The course is taught by Rhamis Kent in English and translated into Italian by Ignazio Schettini.

This is an amazing opportunity which thousands of permaculture designers worldwide have taken and now comprises a global network of educators, ecological activists who influence major corporations, individuals creating new business alternatives and groups of committed people working together to change the way we view and design our landscapes.

The course covers sustainable living systems for a wide variety of landscapes and climates. It includes the application of permaculture principles to food production, home design, construction, energy conservation and generation, and explores alternative economic structures and legal strategies supporting permaculture solutions.

The foundation for this course is “A Permaculture Designers' Manual” by Bill Mollison. Please advise us within 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 if you would like to receive The Manual on the first day of the course (please see the registration form).

Students are invited to bring details of their own sites or potential sites to consider during the course.

This is a residential course, therefore food (i.e. breakfast, morning and afternoon tea break, lunch and dinner) and accommodation (sharing rooms and bathrooms) are included in the course fee, which varies according to the option you choose (please see the registration form).

The course will be held at the Foundation “Le Constantine” (<http://www.lecostantine.eu/#cover-story>). The Foundation was established in 1982 following the will of *Lady Giulia Starace di Casamassella*, who elected it to beneficiary of all of her property. The same did also her cousin, *Lady Lucia De Viti De Marco*, daughter of the more famous economist Antonio De Viti De Marco, with the purpose to continue over time the enlightened philanthropic and social activities that characterized his life and that of other members of his family.

## Laboratorio di Permacultura Mediterranea

The aim of the Foundation is the establishment of an agricultural, artisan and educational centre.

The weaving craft laboratory called "Loving and Singing" manufactures textiles by working on ancient 4-heddle wooden looms, thus recovering traditions and techniques dating back to hundreds of years ago.



Biodynamic agriculture, being clean and ethical, facilitates soil fertility and food quality, demonstrating in a renewed and modern way how man's work can be in full harmony with the laws of nature.

The "Casa di Ora" welcomes its guests in the ancient guesthouse, which is a beautifully restored farmhouse, laid between dry stone walls and centuries-old olive trees.

The professional training for young adults is aimed at increasing the required skills and knowledge for a conscious access into the world of work.

Steiner pedagogy helps children during their human and cultural growth.

This is a place where the scents of the countryside and of the sea lead to intimate and deep emotions.

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## Rhamis: the teacher



Rhamis Kent is a consultant with formal training in mechanical engineering (University of Delaware, B.S.M.E. '95) and permaculture-based regenerative whole systems design (serving as a registered certified Permaculture Design instructor with PRI Australia). He also serves as a co-director of the USA branch of the Permaculture Research Institute.

Rhamis has previously worked for the renowned American inventor and entrepreneur Dean Kamen at DEKA Research & Development, with subsequent engineering work ranging from medical device research and development to aerospace oriented mechanical design. After taking an interest in the design science of Permaculture, he sought extended training with permaculture expert and educator Geoff Lawton at the Permaculture Research Institute of Australia. This led to his involvement with design work connected to the development of Masdar City in UAE after Mr. Lawton and his consulting company (Permaculture Sustainable Consultancy Pty. Ltd.) were contracted by AECOM/EDAW to identify solutions which fit the challenging zero emissions/carbon neutral design constraint of the project.

Most recently, Rhamis collaborated with environmental filmmaker John D. Liu ([www.eemp.org](http://www.eemp.org), <http://www.whatifwechange.org/>) after meeting at the Caux Forum for Human Security in the making of a documentary for Dutch production company VPRO called "Green Gold" highlighting the topic of global ecosystem restoration work.

In July 2010, Rhamis lectured at Schumacher College (named after the influential economic thinker E.F. Schumacher) in Totnes, Devon UK about the application of permaculture in post-industrial Detroit:

<http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk/community/kent>

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He is presently consulting with a delegation of Somali expatriates initiating ecological restoration and education work throughout Somalia: Rhamis Kent: Permaculture in Somalia (IPC10 Presentation - Video)

<http://permaculturenews.org/2011/10/07/rhamis-kent-permaculture-in-somalia-ipc10-presentation-video/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gvu9JPRZ4yg>

Since 2011, Rhamis has taught Permaculture Design (formal Certification and short Intensive courses) in Palestine/Occupied West Bank, Greece, Ethiopia, Yemen, Turkey, Thailand, Italy and The United States (California & Vermont). He has also performed additional consultancy work on projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Western Sahara.

Given the rapidly growing interest in sustainable development, Mr. Kent hopes to bring to the attention of the investment community an aspect of the emerging sustainable economy that has yet to be seriously considered for significant financial support - Earth Repair/Ecosystem Restoration Work (ERW) and regenerative design, as he presented before the investment community during the 2010 TBLI Conference held in London:

<http://www.slideshare.net/tbliconference/rhamis-kent>

Working extensively within the MENA Region & Muslim World, Rhamis has discussed the importance of establishing the link between the Islamic tradition and environmental stewardship:

<https://soundcloud.com/beyond-halal/rhamis-kent-interview>

Mr. Kent's published writings can be found at the PRI Australia website.

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## Ignazio: the course translator



Ignazio Schettini (here on the left with Geoff Lawton and his dog Bluey), took his degree in agriculture in 2005 and he is into permaculture since October 2013 when he organised, promoted and attended a PDC (Permaculture Design Certificate) course.

This was run in Bari, South of Italy, at his own farm, and it can be also watched on Youtube by searching for the keywords "Laboratorio di Permacultura Mediterranea".

With the same keywords you can also access to the Facebook group created and coordinated by Ignazio together with Giuseppe Lorusso, which aims to promote permaculture design on social media. After the course, Ignazio flew to Australia where he spent 8 months from February til October 2014 working side by side with Geoff Lawton and Bill Mollison (the latter the founder of the permaculture movement) respectively at PRI (Permaculture Research Institute) in New South Wales and at Tagari Garden Farm, which is the PI (Permaculture Institute) headquarter in Tasmania.

The knowledge of the agriculture industry and the English language (obtained through a long work experience in London between 2006 and 2013) with the experience made through the permaculture work done in Australia, make of Ignazio a great translator for this theoretical 72 hour course.

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## Uggiano la Chiesa, Otranto, Lecce, Salento

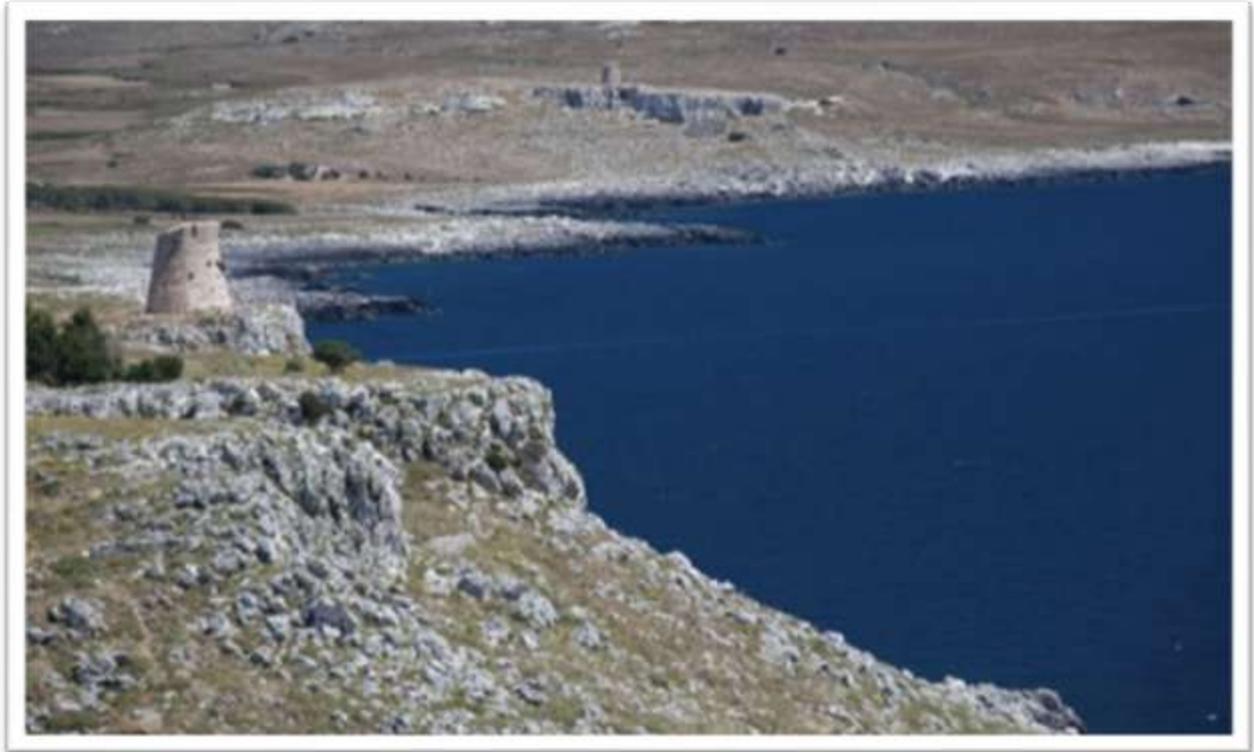
Located in the eastern part of Salento, within Otranto's inland, Uggiano la Chiesa also includes the village of Casamassella. The municipality adheres to the National Association of Cities Producing Bread and Oil as well as to the Italian Coordination of Local Authorities for Peace and Human Rights.



Uggiano is only a few kilometers from the east coast of the Salento peninsula. As a matter of fact Otranto is just about 5 km away, presenting a coastline that offers extensive terraces with marked differences in level and rocky karstic cliffs.



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Punta Palascia, commonly known as Capo d'Otranto, is the easternmost point of Italy.



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It is located in the town of Otranto, 40° 7' north latitude and 18° 31' east longitude. The lighthouse located there is one of the five lighthouses in the Mediterranean Sea under the safeguard of the European Commission.

This place is a quite popular destination for tourists and curious, also because of the annual tradition, which attracts at every New Year's Eve masses of people waiting for the dawn of the new year at the foot of the lighthouse, being this the very first dawn of the new year in Italy. Following the nautical conventions this place is the point of separation between the Ionian and the Adriatic Sea.

## **Curiosity:**

As soon as one walks on the path towards the lighthouse, any telephone connection with the Italian companies is lost. That is the reason why the entire telephone network in the area of the lighthouse refers to the one of Greece.

Registrations will be officially closed on September 15th, 2015.  
Students are invited to register no later than this date.

For information and booking, please send an e-mail to the following address:  
[marilena.cassano@mediperlab.com](mailto:marilena.cassano@mediperlab.com)