



# New Book Information

## Desert or Paradise

### Restoring Endangered Landscapes Using Water Management, including Lake and Pond Construction

By Sepp Holzer

Sepp Holzer is renowned the world over for bringing deserted landscapes back to life using his unique methods of creating water retention basins – in *Desert or Paradise* he inspires us to look beyond previously tried, tired and failed ‘solutions’ to drought by following his catalogue of successes, furnishing each case study with photographs, illustrations and anecdotes.

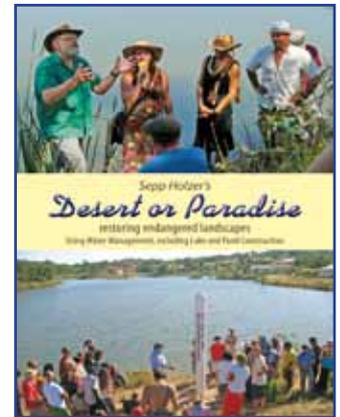
These restored or newly-constructed lakes not only reacquify the surrounding landscape to turn back the tide of encroaching desertification, but also support abundant edible landscapes of orchards and crops planted along the bank, and provide freshwater mixed aquacultures.

*Desert or Paradise* will explain why natural water management is at the centre of any earth restoration, showing us:

- how to design water retention areas that produce ‘living’ water
- how to prevent and reverse desertification
- how to prevent floods and soil erosion
- how to build nature-inspired dams
- and much more

Sepp talks us through the importance of animal husbandry in a healthy landscape by spreading seeds, preparing the ground for tree planting, pruning trees and shrubs and foraging, as well as being labourers and companions, and providing meat and other useful products.

Injected with Sepp’s unique style and opinions, *Desert or Paradise* gives hope to those who see an apparently barren landscape as a failure from which there is no return, to help us move beyond conventional methods which trap us in a cycle of dependence on fertilisers, monocultures and heavy equipment.



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Fax: 01730 823 322  
Email: [info@permaculture.co.uk](mailto:info@permaculture.co.uk)  
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## What people are saying about DESERT OR PARADISE

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Josef (“Sepp”) Holzer was born in the Province of Salzburg, Austria. He is a farmer, author and an international consultant for natural agriculture. He took over his parents’ mountain farm business in 1962 and pioneered the use of ecological farming, or permaculture, techniques at high altitudes (1,100 to 1,500 meters above sea level) after being unsuccessful with regular farming methods.



Sepp has been known as the “rebel farmer” for his persistence despite being fined and threatened with prison for practices such as not pruning his fruit trees. He has also created some of the world's best examples of using ponds as reflectors to increase solar gain for passive solar heating of structures, and of using the microclimate created by rock outcrops to effectively change the hardiness zone for nearby plants.

Sepp conducts permaculture (“Holzer Permaculture”) seminars at his farm and worldwide, while continuing to work on his alpine farm. His farm now spans over 45 hectares of forest gardens, including 70 ponds, and is said to be the most consistent example of permaculture worldwide. He is author of several books and the subject of the film *The Agricultural Rebel*. He works nationally as a permaculture activist in the established agricultural industry, and works internationally as adviser for ecological agriculture.