

# TERRA LUPA

Field Notes  
WINTER 2025





These Field Notes are held with a few intentions.

First, to share a glimpse of the gatherings we've hosted; the questions, reflections and follow-on threads that continue to shape our work.

Second, to offer a small supportive field of practice for those seeking alternatives to the usual pressures of the built environment. Many of us are exploring different ways of responding, and it helps to know we're not doing it alone.

And finally, to share updates from Terralupa and our wider network: weaving connections, opening possibilities, and inviting collaboration rather than competition.

We hope you enjoy what we've gathered here, and that this becomes the first of many shared Field Notes.

With Gratitude,  
Kara & Javier  
TERRALUPA



# TERRALUPA LAUNCHES AS A *LIFE- ALIGNED COLLECTIVE* CALLING CONVERSATION AROUND SHIFTS IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## Shaping What's Next: **A Built Environment that Belongs**

*In November, we brought together architects, engineers, designers, educators, and local government to explore how the built environment might shift toward practices that honour life, context, and community. It was also the moment Terralupa re-emerged as a life-centred design collective: grounded in connection, collaboration and care.*



**The gathering began with a brief guided visualisation; a moment to pause and bring some memories alive. Our collaborators were invited to share reflections from their work & practice:**

**Jenny Ford** (Materials in Mind / FactoryX) shared how powerful it is to show alternatives by doing and the importance of having spaces to talk honestly about what's happening, where resistance shows up, and how new approaches can be imagined.

**Ben Webb** (Planit) introduced a design toolkit inspired by doughnut economics: 16 "impact stories" arranged in a circular system, helping designers think beyond disciplinary boundaries and understand their work in a wider ecological and social context.

**Carol Freitas** (NOUS Ecosystema) spoke about bringing nature into the creative process, bridging differing ideologies and needs, and holding the role of "translator" between Indigenous and non-Indigenous worldviews.

**Aga Biedalak** highlighted that the best project outcomes emerge from people themselves, raising vital questions about ownership, governance and how we share responsibility in the built environment.

## Reflections from the Circle

Participants shared their own memories and professional experiences — from regenerative housing visions to childhood landscapes that refreshed their approach to their work. Stories surfaced around community, belonging, care and the need to soften the divisions between built and natural space.

## The Berkana Constellation

We worked with the Berkana Two Loops Model, physically placing ourselves within the phases of transition: Stewardship, Composting, Emergence and Communities of Practice.

### Key reflections emerged:

- A participant asked how we might cultivate systems of influence with students.
- Several people named a tension: the old system feels exhausted, yet still “too needed” to let go; reluctant to compost.
- Conversations echoed the theme of tending to endings, recalling work on composting practices\*.
- A voice spoke from inside the dominant system, describing the pain of delays, pressures and targets.

*What emerged was a reminder: we need all parts of the system. The composting, the bridging, the pioneers. Living systems depend on interconnection as the old dissolves and the new takes root.*







“The thing that came alive  
was the sense of  
community in the room  
even though many didn't  
know each other...”

Rob Faulkner  
**Wild Home**



“As a child I ran through  
fields of Irish  
countryside...more  
recently, I've been  
reflecting on what my  
children are growing up  
with - living in an urban  
environment...”

Joy Stone  
**Stone Lane Architects**



# YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS CULTIVATE THE FIELD...

In collaboration with **Terralupa Collective** member and University of Utrecht researcher **Dr. Katharina Hecht**, we've created a short questionnaire to understand the current reality of the Built Environment: its challenges, needs and emerging possibilities.

***Your responses will help shape a new science-based platform for sustainable building strategies, along with practical guidance that bridges research and practice.***

If you work in the Built Environment, we'd be grateful for 10 minutes of your time, and for sharing it with colleagues.

A public summary will be released in 2026.

**Survey found on this [link](#).**

# ECHOES FROM THE ECOSYSTEM

Rob Faulkner is opening conversations on his newly founded podcast “***The Community Housing Podcast***” about the future of community-led homes. Would you be up for joining him as a guest?

**Get in touch!** [rob@wildhome.life](mailto:rob@wildhome.life)

**Aga Biedalak** is open to connecting and continuing the exchange of inspiration with anyone that attended (and beyond!) with whom her perspective has resonated.

\*Check out Heather Knight's **Arteri Studio**  
**Tending to Endings**

We need **more case studies** and projects to represent at our future events. Projects at any stage - sharing opportunities and challenges...get in touch!



# SO... WHAT IS ALREADY TAKING ROOT?

We know the value of creating more time and space to support the shifts happen, linking up networks and individuals.

Collaborations we are working on:

- **A Walk & Talk in late January**
- **A series of on-site learning with project scenarios focusing on life-centred design & ecopsychology**

***TERRALUPA is a founding member of the recently formed Bio-leadership Impact Co-op (website to launch), a network of nature-centred organisations working in connection across bioregions.***

We've been running workshops in Spain with Interface, exploring what nature-centred leadership looks like in their daily practice and product design.

**TERRALUPA.COM**

(temporary website, new site launches in 2026)