

Intrinsic characteristics; the individual

Physical:

- Upright stance
- Biped built for walking long distances
- Arms providing reach
- Hands, unique opposition
- Tendency toward using tools in tasks
- Eats vegetable and/or animal

Cognitive:

- Wide interest in forms of communication
- Able to think through complicated tasks
- Can memorise large amounts of information

Sensory:

- Smell, taste, touch, hearing
- Responds emotionally

Intrapersonal:

- Affected by different moods and emotions
- Has an inner life, habits, beliefs

Interpersonal:

- Social, need to communicate

The above represent the starting point to look at needs and behaviours this can be personalised to put an individual or group into a design.

Functions and needs

These can largely be expressed under the following headings:

Self care: physical, mental and social needs for a healthy life

Work: Not necessarily paid but occupation that gives meaning to the individual and ideally balances physical and cognitive needs.

Leisure: Re-creation, a time to be free of responsibilities and demands. Opportunity to express oneself creatively.

Environment

All the above needs to be seen in the context of the environment the individual lives in. Outside events can alter and influence this balance.

Tasks:

Livelihood analysis

Draw a mind map of your life, including work, family, interests etc.

Reference: 'The Woodland Way' Ben Law, Permanent Publications, 2001, ISBN 1-85623-009-0

Alternative CV

Not a list of educational qualifications and employment but more a description of you e.g. mother, always the person people contact if they need help, grows stunning carrots etc.

Write out your alternative CV don't be modest, be proud of your skills

Morning routine

Look at the first two hours of a typical day, your habits and routine. In a group discuss those that are negotiable or not i.e. if you shared a space with others what would you expect and what would you be prepared to give up.

Dave's shed

We need to help build a shed for Dave, what skills can we each offer, and how do we design the space to meet Dave's needs. Dave is a 35 year old wheelchair user who has started making solar panels, he needs the shed as a workshop space as well as somewhere clients can discuss the design of their solar panels. Dave needs the shed to reflect his passion for permaculture design.