

ECOSA INSTITUTE

**CERTIFICATE IN
REGENERATIVE
ECOLOGICAL
DESIGN**

-create re-imagine re-gen
-habilitate re-develop re-b
re-adapt re-utilize re-inhab
affirm re-examine re-calcu
embody re-wind re-evalua
re-delegate re-grow re-see
earn re-absorb re-plant re
fashion re-use re-establish
bsorb re-immerse re-expe
re-educate re-emphasize
re-discover re-weave re-moc
define re-connect re-awak

RE-Design

REGENERATIVE

[ri-jen-er-uh-tiv, -uh-rey-tiv]

adjective, healing and creating new life

ECOLOGICAL

[ek-uh-loj-i-kuhl, ee-kuh-]

adjective, using the logic of nature

DESIGN

[dih-zahyn] **verb**, to intervene in the flow of events and create a desired effect

“The significant problems we face can not be solved at the same level of thinking we were when we created them.”

- Albert Einstein

Semester Immersion in RE-Design

As an in-depth introduction to sustainable and ecological design, our semester program explores the many ways in which design can solve the environmental challenges of the 21st century. Architecture, planning, landscape architecture, industrial design, and other disciplines are unique problem-solving tools that have the potential to create a healthy, just and sustainable world. We use nature as a model for our curriculum, therefore it is complex, recursive and diverse. Design is a holistic, integrative, systems process and our curriculum is designed to encourage this mode of thinking.

A group of people, including a man in a green jacket in the foreground, are standing in a natural wetland environment. They are looking towards a body of water with reeds and a forested background. The scene is outdoors and appears to be a field study or educational activity.

LEARNING FROM NATURAL SYSTEMS

By learning how natural systems respond to and are shaped by their environments and understanding strategies that have proved successful over millions of years, we inform a new relationship between man and nature through design - the interface of the natural and the manmade.

LEARNING BY DOING

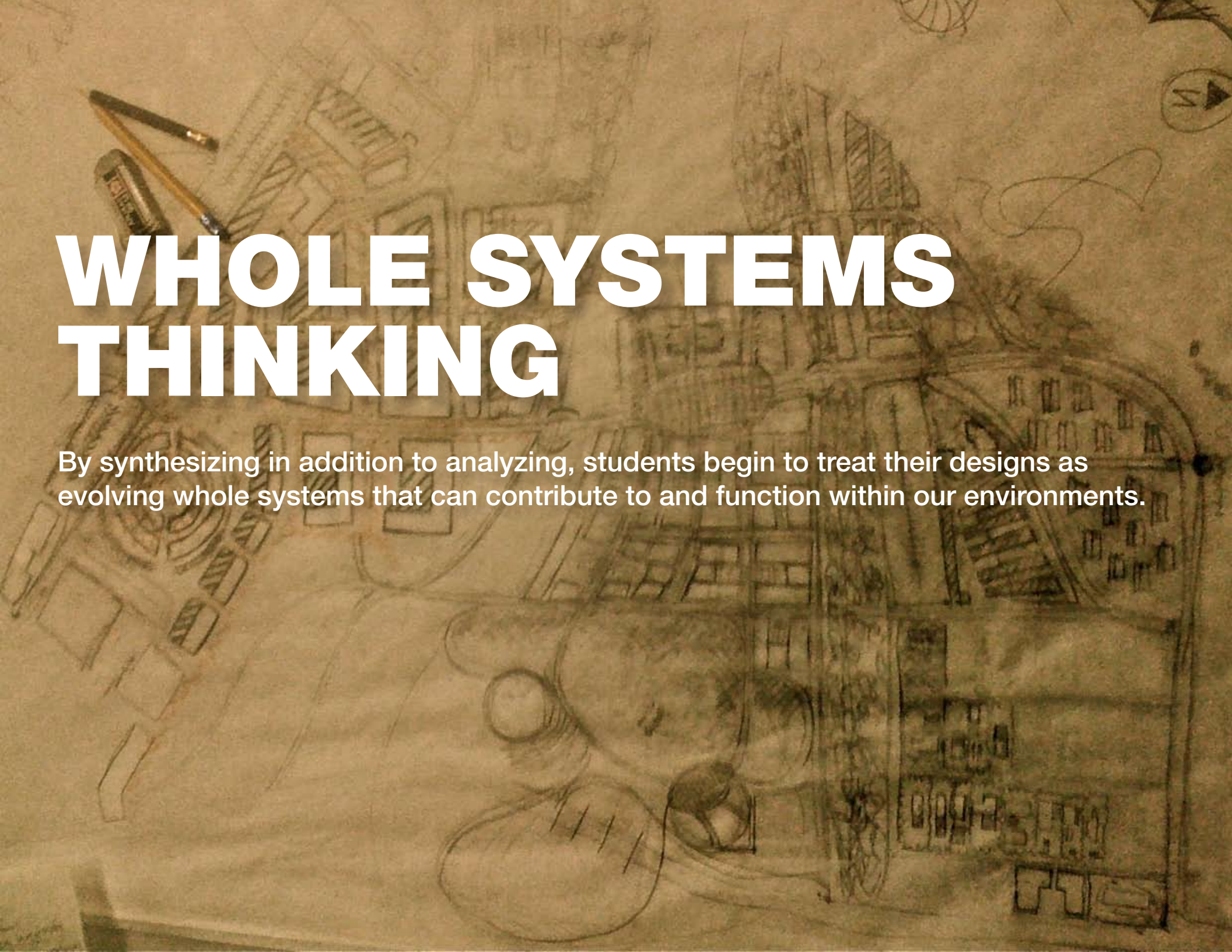
A hand is visible in the upper left, interacting with a detailed architectural model. The model is constructed from various materials, including cardboard, wood, and wire mesh, and is set on a large cardboard base. In the background, there are blue sculptural pieces and other cardboard structures. The overall scene is a workshop or studio environment.

Through hands-on experiential learning an understanding of materials and their possibilities and limitations is developed. Meetings with clients, city officials and presenting projects to the public builds both confidence and clarity of ideas.

A group of four students are gathered around a table, focused on their work. They are looking at and pointing to architectural drawings spread out on the table. One student in the foreground is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt and is actively drawing with a green pen. Another student in the background is wearing a brown plaid shirt and is also pointing at the drawings. The setting appears to be a classroom or a workshop, with various papers and a green bottle visible in the background.

PROJECTS FOR REAL CLIENTS

Undertaking projects for clients with real sites and budgets provides students with an understanding of the real constraints they will experience when in their chosen field. This process includes meeting with stakeholders, community members and consultants.

The background is a detailed pencil sketch of a city or urban environment on aged, textured paper. The sketch includes various buildings, streets, and circular elements that could represent parks or roundabouts. In the upper left corner, there are two drafting tools: a yellow pencil and a black pencil, both lying diagonally. A small circular arrow icon is visible in the upper right corner. The overall tone is sepia or light brown, giving it a vintage or historical feel.

WHOLE SYSTEMS THINKING

By synthesizing in addition to analyzing, students begin to treat their designs as evolving whole systems that can contribute to and function within our environments.

RELEARNING TRADITIONAL WISDOM

By visiting Native American communities, meeting with tribal elders and exploring historic Anasazi sites, we search for the similarities and differences in our cultures and strategies for the design of habitat have allowed native people to sustain themselves for millennia.



LEARNING FROM LEADERS



Visiting speakers have included Antoine Predock, Glenn Murcutt, Sym Van Der Ryn, David Orr, Pliny Fisk, Edward Mazria, Steve Badanes, Hunter Lovins, and James Wines. Students meet in an intimate atmosphere for conversations with these outstanding thinkers.

“The Ecosa program went beyond meeting my expectations. The breadth of knowledge was intense, the speakers were fascinating, and the projects were stimulating. The overall Ecosa experience was wonderful.”

- Ecosa alumnus

CERTIFICATE IN RE-DESIGN

CONCEPTS EXPLORED

The Ecosa Certificate in RE-Design is an in-depth immersion program that provides unique ways of gaining insights into the many facets of designing with nature. Students learn how holistic systems thinking can positively transform our environment and our global community.

Bioclimatic Design Construction Methods Design History Hands-on
Whole Systems Thinking Design Practicum Technical Drawing
Local & Global Issues Urban Green Infrastructure
Site Surveying & Analysis Permaculture Landscape Architecture
Elements of Design Computer Aided Drafting Design History Resource Analysis
Local Ecology Methods in Design Ecological Economics
Community Design Resource Flows Passive Design Systems
Regenerative Systems Environmental Restoration Art in Nature
Recursive Learning Concept Exploration Biophilia Sketching
Using new Tools Design with Nature Architecture Design Theory
Urban Planning Field Trips Ecological Ethics Form & Pattern in Nature
Chaos Theory Biomimicry Model Making Consciousness Theories
Graphic Design Social Contexts Adaptability Local Resources



“The Ecosa experience has been a keystone in my educational path, precisely because it doesn’t narrow its scope with a specialized mindset. Rather, it takes a diverse, integrated and interdisciplinary approach to the key issues directly related to our relationships with each other and the environment.”

- Ecosa alumnus

CERTIFICATE IN RE-DESIGN

CONTACT HOURS

Faculty contact hours

129 hours

These presentations and discussions form the knowledge base of the certificate program. Subjects range from sketching and drawing to more conceptual ideas including regenerative design and systems thinking.

Visiting lecturers

21 hours

These leaders in the field of ecological design bring cutting edge concepts and the latest thinking in a variety of regenerative disciplines. They spend time with students both in a lecture and social setting.

Field trips

81 hours

Visits to relevant sites throughout the Southwest give experiential meaning to the concepts discussed in studio and presented in lectures.

Studio work

180 hours

Students work to develop projects and create designs for real world client projects undertaken during the semester. Ecosa staff answer questions and offer guidance during studio periods.

Research Presentations

15 hours

Students are required to complete two research presentations relevant to their client-based design projects, one on construction systems and one on design history.

Client Presentations

18 hours

Students must make presentations of their design work to clients, including an interim presentation and a complete final presentation.

Reading discussion

18 hours

Students are required to participate in weekly readings and related discussions, which include cutting edge debate about design and sustainability.

Total Contact Hours

462 hours



“ I have been involved in hundreds of development projects in my industrial career. This was one of the top creative groups of young people that I have worked with in a long, long time. ”

- Ecosa client

CERTIFICATE IN RE-DESIGN

FIELD TRIPS

Throughout the semester we take field trips to spectacular historic and contemporary sites throughout the Southwest. These trips are integrated into the learning experience to provide a basis for discussion and to place sustainable design into a broader context.

A three-day field trip to southern Arizona is comprised of tours of co-housing communities and sustainable building projects as well as a full day with permaculture expert and author Brad Lancaster. Students spend time at Paolo Soleri's Arcosanti project studying new approaches to urban design, and to contrast, we stop in at one of the largest new housing developments in Arizona to view a different approach to community.

Depending on the semester, trips also include outings to archaeological sites in northern and southern Arizona, Native American communities, and local explorations in modern green building.

Other common destinations for excursions are prominent architectural studios, the Richard Meier's Federal Building, the Phoenix Central Library by Will Bruder, the Nelson Fine Arts Center, as well as a number of national parks and landmarks.



“ I learned about the importance of a deeper textural awareness of things, to be cognitively aware of your environment... [and] that good design is not a tack-on experience, but one which is inter-layered and integrated, each part or component operates in the context of the whole.”

- Ecosa alumnus

CERTIFICATE IN RE-DESIGN **ADMISSIONS**

We accept adventurous, bold, and self-directed students of all backgrounds, including those with design and non-design based degrees. Design permeates every aspect of our lives and a deep understanding of regenerative ecological design will benefit professionals in every field. Our students understand the need to develop skills that will enable them to navigate the changes coming in the 21st century. While a bachelor's degree is preferred, applicants who demonstrate equivalent work history and maturity are encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

A two-page autobiographical sketch including the experiences that you believe interested you in design as well as your educational history and career goals.

A list of your strengths and weaknesses

One example that demonstrates your creative abilities. This could be a portfolio, photographs, videos, essays, or a web page link.

A \$25.00 application fee made payable to Ecosa Institute



“The program exceeded anything I could have fathomed. The interdisciplinary curriculum, field study and guest lecture components gave a life to the program that can't be found anywhere else.”

- Ecosa alumnus

CERTIFICATE IN RE-DESIGN SEMESTER COSTS

As part of our philosophy we make every attempt to keep the costs of our program as affordable as possible. Within two weeks of being accepted, a \$500 tuition deposit is required to reserve your space in the program. The deposit is applied to your tuition fee. Final payment is due three weeks before the first day of class.

Application Fee: \$25

Tuition Cost: \$5,990

Books & Supplies: Books for the reading discussions vary depending on the semester, but are generally under \$150. Basic drafting and camping supplies can cost anywhere from \$100 - \$200, depending on quality. These are essential to completing studio work and for your safety and comfort on overnight trips. A list of required items will be supplied upon registration.

Housing: Furnished student housing is provided for all students with the option of a single or double occupancy rooms within our apartments. All utilities are included in the rent. Single occupancy rooms are \$500 per month, and double occupancy rooms are \$400 per month.



“In many ways, what students get in one [Ecosa] semester is a more holistic understanding of sustainability than they could presently get at any traditional design school.”

- American Institute of Architects
Committee on the Environment Report

CERTIFICATE IN RE-DESIGN

FINANCIAL AID

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Scholarship Awards range from \$500 - \$2,000 per semester. All applicants must submit a scholarship application to be considered for an award. The Scholarship Committee considers academic performance, professional experience, stated financial need or unique hardship, letter(s) of recommendation, and the applicant's personal statement in making award decisions.

WORK TRADE

Work Trade options are available for students interested in working at the Ecosa Office for an hourly rate in exchange for tuition reduction. Students interested in pursuing a work trade agreement must submit a resume and statement of need to info@ecosa.org in order to be considered. Work trade agreements will be awarded based on existing skills and experience, stated financial need or unique hardship, and a phone interview with the Program Coordinator.

PRIVATE LOANS & PAYMENT PLANS

Private loans and payment plans are available to students who can demonstrate good financial standing or provide a co-signer. Please contact info@ecosa.org for more information.



“The schedule kept you fresh and alert. There would be an interesting lecture, and then you could go immediately into your studio project and try to incorporate what you learned, which helped you retain the information. If you're willing to change things up.. and broaden all or most of your horizons, Ecosa is the place for you!”

- Ecosa alumnus

CERTIFICATE IN RE-DESIGN **SEMESTER CALENDAR**

Every year, we offer three four-month semester immersion courses. For exact program dates, find our calendar online at <http://ecosainstitute.org/programs/calendar.html>

SPRING SEMESTER

Mid January - Mid May

Early Notification Deadline: October 15th

Suggested Application Deadline: December 15th

SUMMER SEMESTER

Mid May - Mid August

Early Notification Deadline: March 1

Suggested Application Deadline: April 15th

FALL SEMESTER

Mid August - Mid December

Early Notification Deadline: May 1st

Suggested Application Deadline: August 1st



“Architecture is only a piece of the puzzle that can start the healing process that this world is in dire need of. Ecosa is the catalyst that gives you the power to put all of the pieces together.”

- Ecosa alumnus

CERTIFICATE IN RE-DESIGN **AFTER ECOSA**

A majority of 21st century jobs have not yet been created. Students who graduate with a Certificate in Regenerative Ecological Design will have the skills and experience to adapt to our rapidly changing and unpredictable job market. Specific career paths will vary greatly from person to person and might include anything from consulting, professional design work, entrepreneurship, community development, local government work, or non-profit management. **Interested students may wish to continue their studies with Ecosa and develop a thesis project in the Ecosa RE-Design Masters Program.**

This is a sampling of the work that our alumni are doing after graduating from the Ecosa Institute's Semester Immersion Course:

Founder and Principal Architect, Shelter Design Studio

Stewardship Director, The Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust

Business Sustainability and Energy Expert, Vanden Brink Consulting

Farmer's Market Coordinator, City of Chicago

Promotions Coordinator, Austin EcoNetwork

Environmental Specialist, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, Architects

Project Manager, Action Sports Environmental Coalition

Energy Project Manager, City of Huntington Beach



“Ecosa has given me something I’ve been trying to find for a long time. I’ve gained the knowledge of not just how to sustain or even regenerate life, but how to live my life in a way that is more deeply connected to my surrounding environment.”

- Ecosa alumnus

With climate change threatening extraordinary impacts on our planet Earth, the role of the designer has become one of the most critical in the 21st century.

The Ecosa Institute was founded in the belief that a new design philosophy informed by the natural world is critical to the future survival of our species. The design of human environments has always had a transformative impact on human societies and the natural systems on which we depend; the environments we create change the way our societies perceive the world.

ECOSA INSTITUTE

If you are looking for an opportunity to fully delve into sustainable design (rather than just talk about it), Ecosa is the place for you. For over a decade we have advocated a radical departure from the traditional approach to teaching design. With in-depth, cross-disciplinary, hands-on programs that tackle real world problems, the Ecosa Institute is at the cutting edge of design education.

With the specter of massive climate change threatening extraordinary impacts on our planet Earth, the role of the designer has become one of the most critical in the 21st century. We focus on the power of design both to mitigate the environmental damage our buildings, cities and products perpetrate, as well as its power to recreate a positive and intentional relationship between human beings and the natural world.

Our programs expand past the often rigid boundaries of design education to include planning, urban design, architecture, interiors, landscape architecture, graphic design, product design and more, exemplifying the essential interconnectedness of all aspects of design.

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