



**MA Eco-Social Design**  
Semester 1 // Community Garden Project

## **FLAVOUR TABLE**

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For growing, eating and social gathering.

A table with integrated herb bed and infographics  
that invites people to flavour their meal, get  
informed about herbs and meet in the garden.

*A project by*

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Flavour Table was designed for the VIVO community garden of unibz with an integrated herb bed, sitting possibilities and infographics. It gives space to social interaction and provides information about herbs.

Minimal and practical design makes the table-bench-combination an attractive furniture. The open source construction is long-lasting even in public outdoor areas where it is exposed to weather and possible vandalism. As the bed is a standalized box for planting, it can be integrated easily into the construction.

To guarantee an easy and profitable use of plants in the garden, the herbs planted in the bed need only a minimum amount of work. To all of the chosen herbs flavour recommendations and health information are provided to make the use of the table not only a social, but also an educative experience.

# **THE IDEA**

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## **STARTING POINT**

The briefing for the garden project was to design a garden object that can be used for the upcoming unibz community garden VIVO. As a starting point we focused on the garden group's wish, that people spend time in the garden area. In order to create a space and atmosphere where people like to be, some kind of furniture is useful. Because the integrated sitting possibility in the existing beds are not immediately recognisable as such, we thought of using actual furniture.

Furthermore, the garden group does not have the capacity to spend a lot of time for the maintenance of the garden, therefore easy-to-handle- plants and beds are necessary.

Our personal goal was to create something social and educative, an object that gives space to social interaction, provides information and something that has the potential to grow and be further developed as a concept.

## **SOLUTION**

We came up with the Flavour Table, an actual table with an integrated herb bed. The furniture's function is maintained and as a table is a well-known commodity, people will recognize its purpose immediately. The table itself is a powerful communication tool for the garden, as it makes people aware of the rest of the garden area while they have lunch at our table. It invites people to sit down and eat and spend their free time in the community garden. The cultivated herbs can be directly used to flavour the meals that are being eaten.

On the second glance, the table should serve as an information table, providing facts about the plants that are growing there. don't need a lot of gardening experience and are relatively carefree. For this reason we also chose mostly perennial plants. Another reason was that they have a big reach, only a little is needed



## COMPONENTS

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### TABLE OBJECT

The table is a symbol for social getting together. Correspondingly, the Flavour Table is a place for social gathering and dialog, where the garden group can hold meetings or simply spent time together, but it also aims to bring other people to the VIVO garden, i.e. attracted by the new possibility to have lunch, that can be even flavoured with the herbs cultivated on the table.

### PLANTS

To give the garden groupe a nice output but at the least work possible, we chose herbs, because they don't need a lot of gardening experience and are relatively carefree. For this reason we also chose

mostly perennial plants. Another reason was that they have a big reach, only a little is needed to give a unique flavour to a meal. From herbs many people can profit over a long period of time, unlike vegetable plants, for example eggplants, where just few people can eat only one time. The selection of herbs is variating from well-known kitchen herbs to more unknown ones. There are eight herbs in total: Rosemary, Chevil, Greek Basil, Wild Thyme, Lemon Verbena, Honey Herb, Calendula and Cornflower.

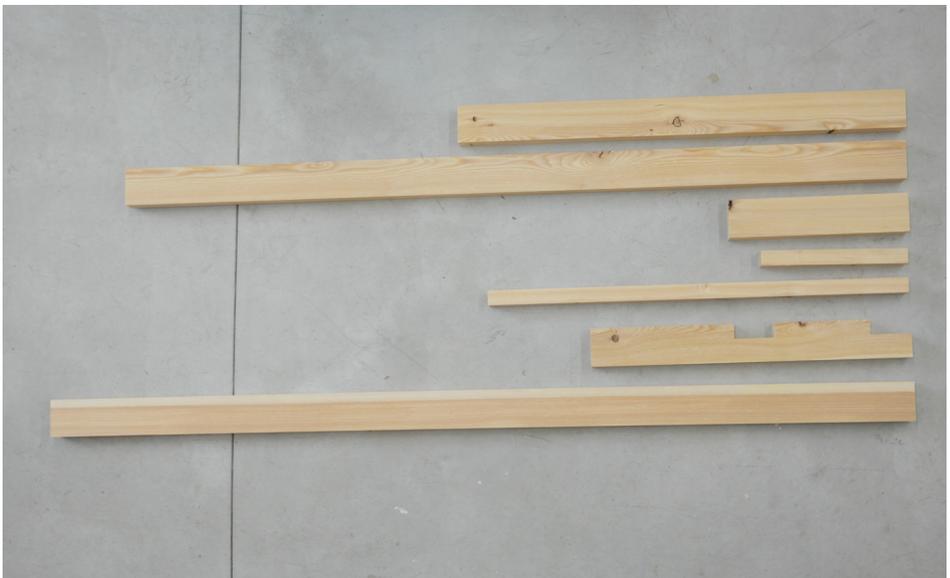
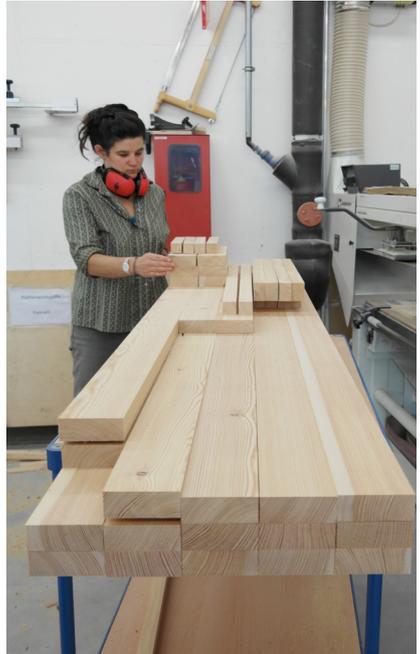
We used two standard 60x30x30 beds that are deep enough for the roots to grow healthily. The table offers excellent conditions for the plants, as its surface provides the roots with shadow and keeps them pleasantly cool and prevents them from drying out.

## CONSTRUCTION

As we wanted to do an open source construction we tried to make the construction to be easily rebuilt and spread. We simplified the working process by using a standard measurement of 9 cm by 3,5 cm in different lengths.

As the table is standing outside and exposed to weather and possible vandalism, it needed to be solid and long-lasting. Besides a solid construction, the information on the table top had to be durable. Therefore, the letters and images are laser-cut deeply in the wood but then filled with filling compound to prevent water residues.

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## INFOGRAPHICS

To tell people about the herbs and their properties, we laser-cut information on the table surface. We used a plate silhouette to indicate that people can use the herbs for their meal. All plates have a different topic, with a title and icon on it (dessert, meat, salad etc.) Arrows connect the herbs to the meals they fit with. The name of the herb is followed by a taste description, an illustrated leaf and the beneficial effect of the herb. The size of the words is chosen according to their relevance. The information to season the lunch is large enough to be visible on the first glance. At the beginning people need the information how to flavour their meal, so the food categories and the herbs are very well visible. Then, when people have started to eat, they notice the smaller letters, the healing effects the herbs have. They are situated outside of the plates, so the information about the herb is not covered by the plate. Because the table is not varnished or oiled weathering will give the wood a grey nuance which will make the white graphics stand out stronger.

**Keywords**

Eating, Concrete Utopia, Scenario Design, Empowerment,  
Capacity Building, Education, Local Food Supply

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**Partners**

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