



# VIVO

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

## **TRASH IS TREASURE**

---

A composting box  
for the unibz community garden  
to turn everyday leftovers  
into precious soil

*A project by  
Laura Heym  
Dietmar Unterberger*



## SHORT DESCRIPTION

---

When we started observing in order to create a meaningful product for the unibz community garden group VIVO, we recognized two things: There is no soil in the university yard where is supposed to be a green garden soon and people just drop their biodegradable waste - that could be taken to produce precious soil - as there are no proper bins for it neither at the university grounds nor in the streets around.

So we designed a compost as the central point of a cycle from ‚waste‘ to soil to plants that will be placed in the public area of the community garden. People put their green waste in the bin and in that moment get involved in the garden project. A communication campaign with an orientation system and the forwarding of information and invitations to events like a ‚compost-party‘ tends to attract people for an active participation. In the compost the accruing bio-waste is converted into a precious material: the nutrient-rich soil, which enables the garden group to grow a rich garden.

The compost’s shape underlines and communicates the richness it is carrying - it looks like a treasure box as ‚trash is treasure‘.

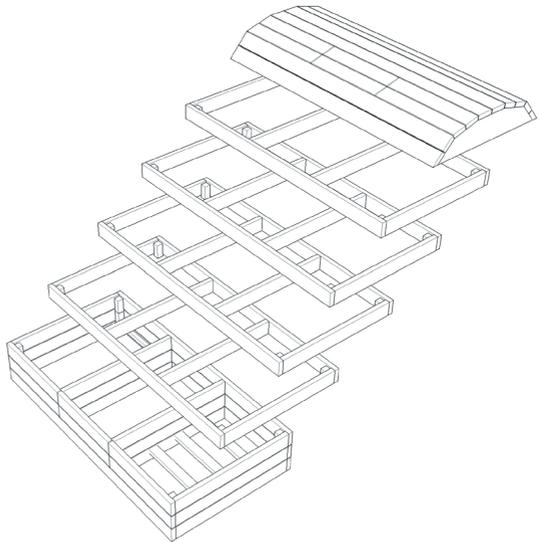
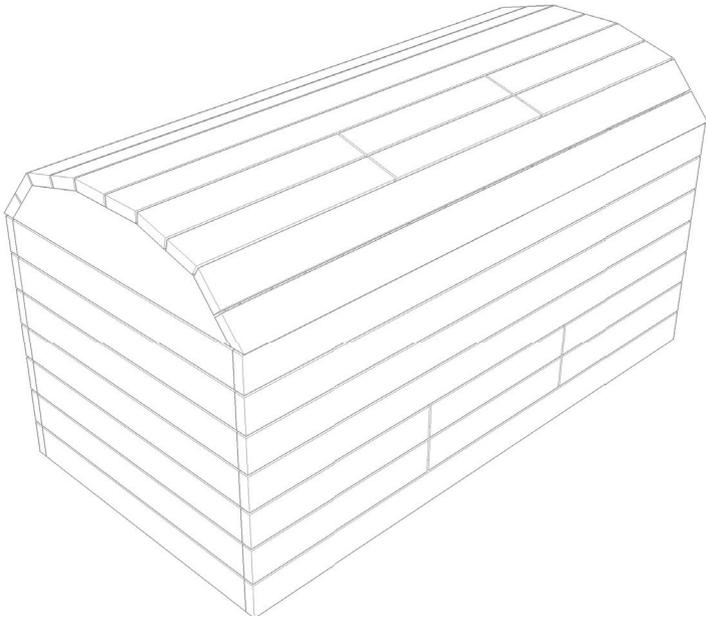
The box is constructed with wooden frames that can be stacked in a modular way in order to allow the user to adapt it to his needs. Gaps between the single frames and the material wood

enable air-circulation and a perfect climate for micro-organisms. The compost is divided into three chambers with sizes adjusted to common stackable Euro Norm boxes. That makes it possible to use the box in various ways. It can be used to create optimum soil over three steps in three years, only two chambers could be used to leave space for garden tools or other supplies or Euro Norm boxes can be inserted for vermiculture composting.

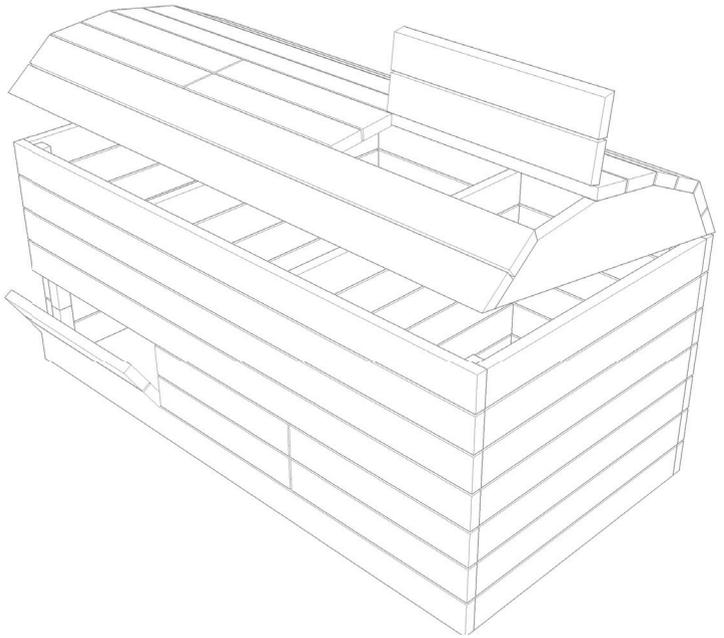
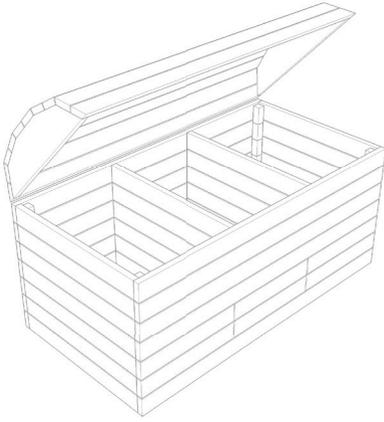
The three flaps in the cover can be opened separately so that only one chamber can be filled by passing people at a time. The lower flaps allow the easy harvesting of the completely composted material. One person of the garden group gets handed over the keys - he is now the treasurer capable for the maintenance and control that a good compost needs.

Simple construction and modular building allow to move the box if necessary, for example when it is too warm or too cold for vermiculture or when the compost needs to be moved during university closing times.

In future there will be no more bio-trash at unibz but only bio-treasure!



3D drawings of the box





Work in progress! The frames were built separately and then could just be stacked on each other.



With stencils and spray paint the typography is attached to the wood.



