

Kläre – happy vegetable gardening on the balcony.

Kläre is a mountain bed inspired flower box with a sub-irrigated watering system.

With it you can grow your own vegetables on your balcony.

Kläre was created as part of Anna Fankhaenel's thesis (2011) on *urban gardening* at ecosign / Academy of Design (Cologne).

Its form is based on a permaculture mountain bed. Due to their shape, Mountain beds offer several advantages such as for example a good water and heat balance. This way harvesting vegetables becomes possible even in cooler seasons. With its mountain bed inspired form Kläre offers almost twice as much space for growing plants than a usual flower box.

Kläre is built from power-coated stainless steel and utilizes a terracotta slab in order to separate the water reservoir from the earth while at the same time ensuring indirect irrigation from below. This way on hot days the earth and thus the plants will not dry out thus making for longer watering intervals.

Planting can be done the conventional way or with a seed paper, with the seedbed roll being the preferred way for beginners. Seedbed rolls can be simply laid out on the earth and fixed in place with the front lid. For conventional planting a mulch film (Mater-Bi) is wedged between front lid and box. The film is then cut or pierced in the desired spots in order to plant seeds or seedlings.

Enjoy gardening and your first vegetable harvest from your own balcony!

www.klaere-blog.de

www.anna-fankhaenel.de

www.ecosign.net