



Vertical Garden, Danielle Trophe

GREEN Therapy

Studio Avni's Principal Designer, Avni Sejjal brings to you the secrets of indoor gardening. Hope you try it!

Words: Avni Sejjal

Watering Can by Aldo



**Watering Can from the
Copper Collection**
Design: Aldo Bakker
Material: copper
Photography: Marten Aukes



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Since childhood, I had a fascination for plants and indoor gardening – something that I have inherited from my mother. I have managed to have a mini herb garden in my balcony bearing potted plants like mint, basil, chilies, lemon grass, curry leaves etc. Although it can be very challenging in a city like Mumbai and one would feel limited by the space constraints of the urban environment. To top it all with extended summers and endless rains, keeping a viable balcony garden is not an easy task. But the benefits that it offers are amazing.

- Filters air and enhances overall air quality.
- Smell of wet soil all year around – big bonus
- Pleasing to the eyes
- Fresh homegrown herbs anytime.

Apart from the growing herbs and colorful Petunias in my balcony, I was also attracted with the whole herb picking

ritual for my monthly cook offs. The idea of collecting the fresh produce from my potted plants made the whole process all the more enjoyable and therapeutic. This got me to think about adapting the Indian 'Masalyu'.

'Masalyu' is a quintessential spice box found in all Indian Kitchens that forms the core of Indian cooking. It is a simplified, functional and an ingenious geometrical circular container that has many cylindrical units that houses a myriad of spices used in Indian cooking. Originally 'Masalyu' was made in Kaasu or Brass, this special copper-tin alloy has been termed- healing metal, by Ayurveda, due to its nutritive and hygiene values. Kansa sharpens our intellect, pays tribute to its therapeutic powers. It also has inherent medicinal properties of the metals from which the alloy is composed. Copper helps in reducing pain, inflammation and improving hemoglobin.

Tin is helpful in digestion, relieving headaches and insomnia.

The 'Masalyu' – Spice Matrix has been adapted to encourage storing your freshly picked spices from your herb garden or simply growing your own in one of its larger units. The detachable units are lined with pumice stone - an excellent material that manages water drainage, aerates and prevents root rot. Just remember to never over water and your plants will flourish. Masalyu comes in a series of different metal combination such as Stainless steel, Copper, Kaasu and Brass.

There are many beautifully designed products by other designers, who have tried to solve the issue of gardening for city dwellers in innovative ways. The beautiful designed sculptural watering can by Aldo Bakker will most certainly turn you in to a gardening enthusiast. Bakker allows his products to take shape on the



Masalyu by Avni



Masalyu

basis of analysis so that they can question their usage and, where necessary, give rise to new rituals or break existing patterns. This astonishing piece is in perfect harmony with traditional and new production techniques. The Watering Can is very carefully balanced, and is best positioned on silent places like a windowsill. In this way, the Watering Can functions as a border between inside and outside. Yet, the Watering Can can also be laid down. In this

case the little ridges at the opening of the container and the spout prevent the can from spilling water. The shape of the pipe is oval, which emphasizes the iconic and graphic character, in resting position.

Danielle Trophe's 'Vertical garden' is a vertical, self-sustaining planter system that harnesses hydroponic technology making indoor gardening for the space constrained urban dweller an easier and exciting possibility. Its function-forward and aesthetically pleasing design enables people to harness their own green thumb in a modern and exciting new way. Vertical hydroponics is a soilless method of growing plants that is one of the most energy, waste and cost efficient methods in existence. With all these products in the market, its one step further to integrate green and healthy living. 🌱

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