

INDIGENUS



SOMA

Designed by Laurie Wiid of Wiid Design the Soma planter juxtaposes lightweight moulded reinforced concrete (GRC) with wood or cork to create a dramatic and beautifully proportioned contemporary piece. The stone-like appearance of the concrete in combination with wood or cork lends a natural aesthetic to the planter, which will age beautifully over time if used outdoors.

MATERIALS

Glass Re-inforced **Concrete**
base with rubber bung

Iroko **wood** or cork top

Plastic self watering plant liner

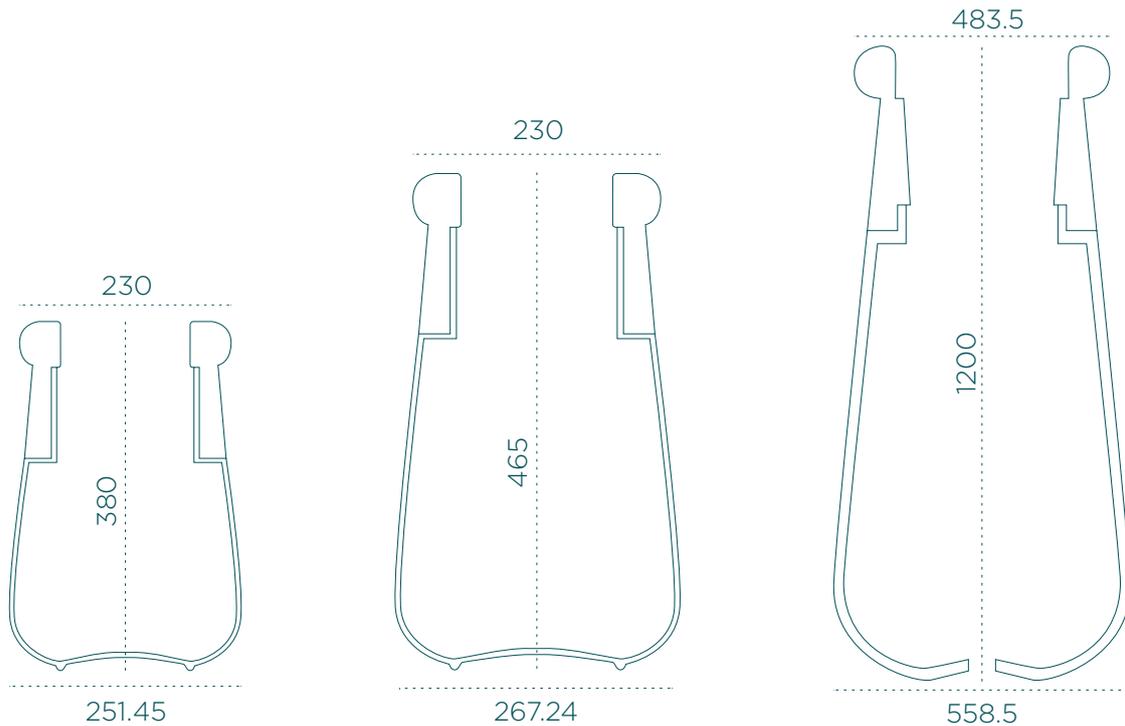
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SIZES



ASSEMBLING THE PLANTERS

Depending on the size of the planter it will either come delivered complete and ready for planting, or it will come in two boxes and will need to be assembled.

Assembly is a very easy process. Remove the liner from the concrete base where it comes packed in the box. Place the base in position where you would like it. If the planter is going to be used outdoors where it will be exposed to rain, then remove the bung that is in the concrete base to allow water to flow through and out onto the floor. If the planter is being used indoors or is covered from rain then ensure that the rubber bung is tightly secured in the base to avoid leaking onto the floor.

Next carefully place the top onto the base. You may need to align the top and the base as there is a tolerance in the design due to the variances found with natural materials.

The planter is now ready for the liner. The liner consists of three pieces:

- The bucket
- The false bottom for the water reservoir
- The watering pipe
- A rubber stopper at the bottom of the bucket

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First determine if the planter is going to be exposed to rainfall or under cover. If rain is going to fall directly onto the plant, then remove the rubber stopper (or do not insert it) from the base of the bucket. This will allow the rainfall water to pass through the liner and not water log the plant.

Next place the false bottom into the bucket with the round hole for the pipe raised at the highest point. Then place the pipe into the hole. The liner can now be placed into the wood/cork top and the planter is now ready to use. The plant liner is designed for watering on a bi-weekly bases depending on the environment it is in and the season. The base holds a reservoir of water that the roots will grow into over time and from which it will draw water. In the first few months of planting a new plant into the liner you may need to either water more frequently or fill the liner to hold more water so the water can reach the roots. Determining the balance on this will take trial and error and will change between winter and summer. Once the plant is established and the balance found, the liner will allow for only occasional watering to ensure the good health of your plants.

During the first 12 to 18 month and depending on whether the planter is exposed to rain or sealed, the wood may leak pigments onto the concrete. As the wood is a natural material this is to be expected and not a problem. The pigments appear to stain the concrete, but these can be removed by scouring the surface of the concrete with a scourer and washing soap. The concrete has been sealed to prevent the pigments from the wood from bonding with the concrete, so do not sand too harshly with sandpaper or metal scourer as this can remove the sealant.

Like the wood the cork will also age and grey with time. The natural resins in the cork that bind it will keep it for years as a wine cork lasts in a bottle of wine. The cork does not require maintenance, but to renew the surface it can be lightly sanded with 220 grit sandpaper and this will reveal fresh dark cork and remove the greying should this be your preference.

IMPORTANT MAINTENANCE INFORMATION

Do not fill the concrete base with water or soil and do not plant directly into the base. This planter has been designed to work in conjunction with a plastic liner and not to withstand the ground force of being filled with earth. Filling the concrete will void any warranty.

The wood can be ordered raw or oiled and sealed. Raw it will age and grey into a beautiful hue. The nature of timber is that it does split and crack – this is partly what gives it its beauty once weathered. There is no guarantee regarding the degree to which timber will crack – this depends on the conditions under which the original tree grew which influence the mineral and oil content of the timber, and also any weaknesses within the structure of the timber itself. It is impossible to tell in advance how a piece of timber is going to respond in the future. The drier the climate the faster cracks may happen. Oiling the wood does feed and protect it from cracking and Balcotan glue can be pressed into cracks to slow the process, but whilst the tops have been designed to last many years they will weather and crack along the way and clients need to decide to go with the greying and cracking of the natural wood or oiling and sealing regularly which will darken the wood.

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