



BUILDING A GARDEN ON THE ROOF





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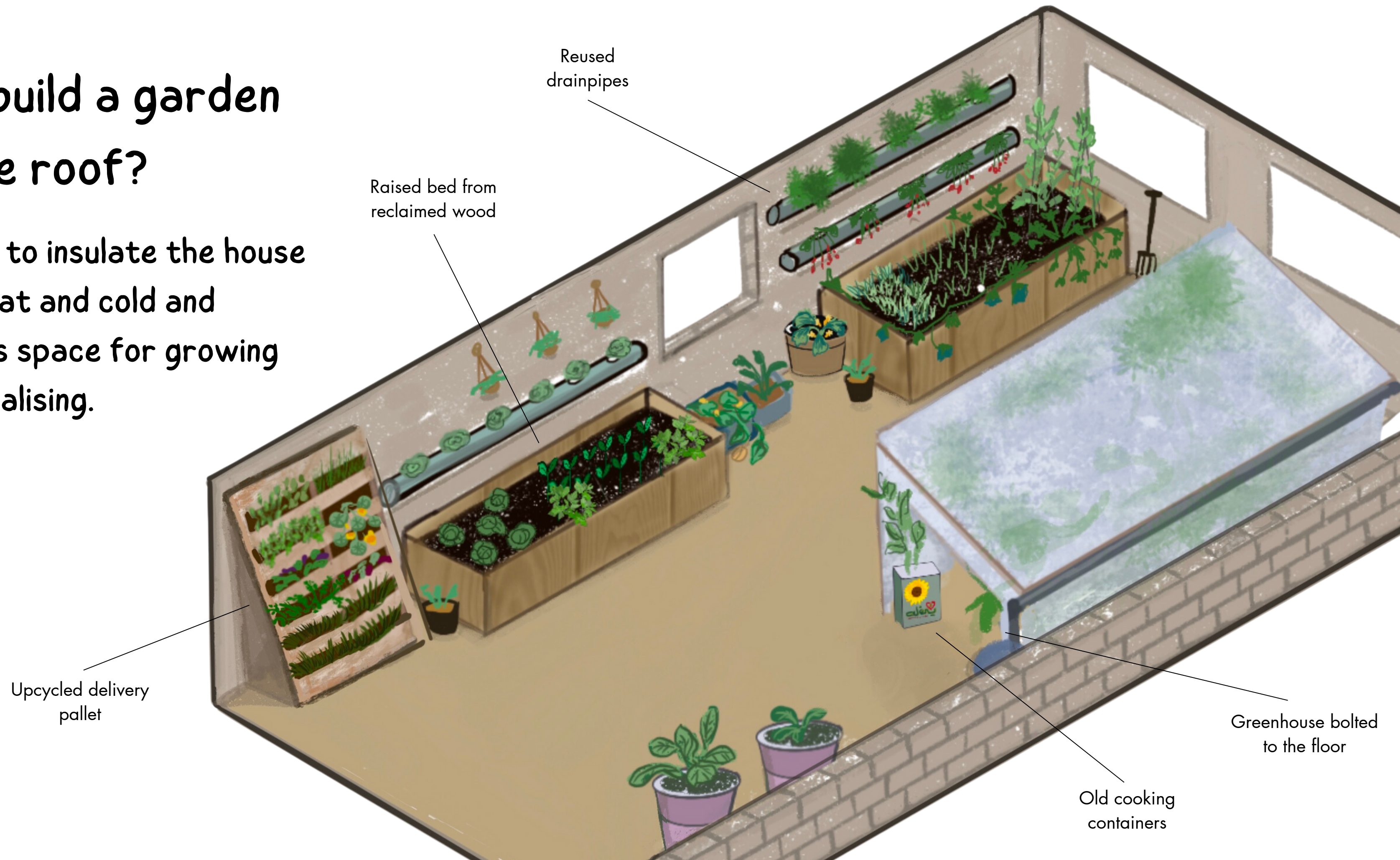
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In solidarity with all the women of Gaza who created roof gardens for themselves, their families, and their communities. We hope for a time of peace and freedom when the seeds that are planted are allowed to flourish.

BUILDING A GARDEN ON THE ROOF

Why build a garden on the roof?

It helps to insulate the house from heat and cold and provides space for growing and socialising.



Reused
drainpipes

Raised bed from
reclaimed wood

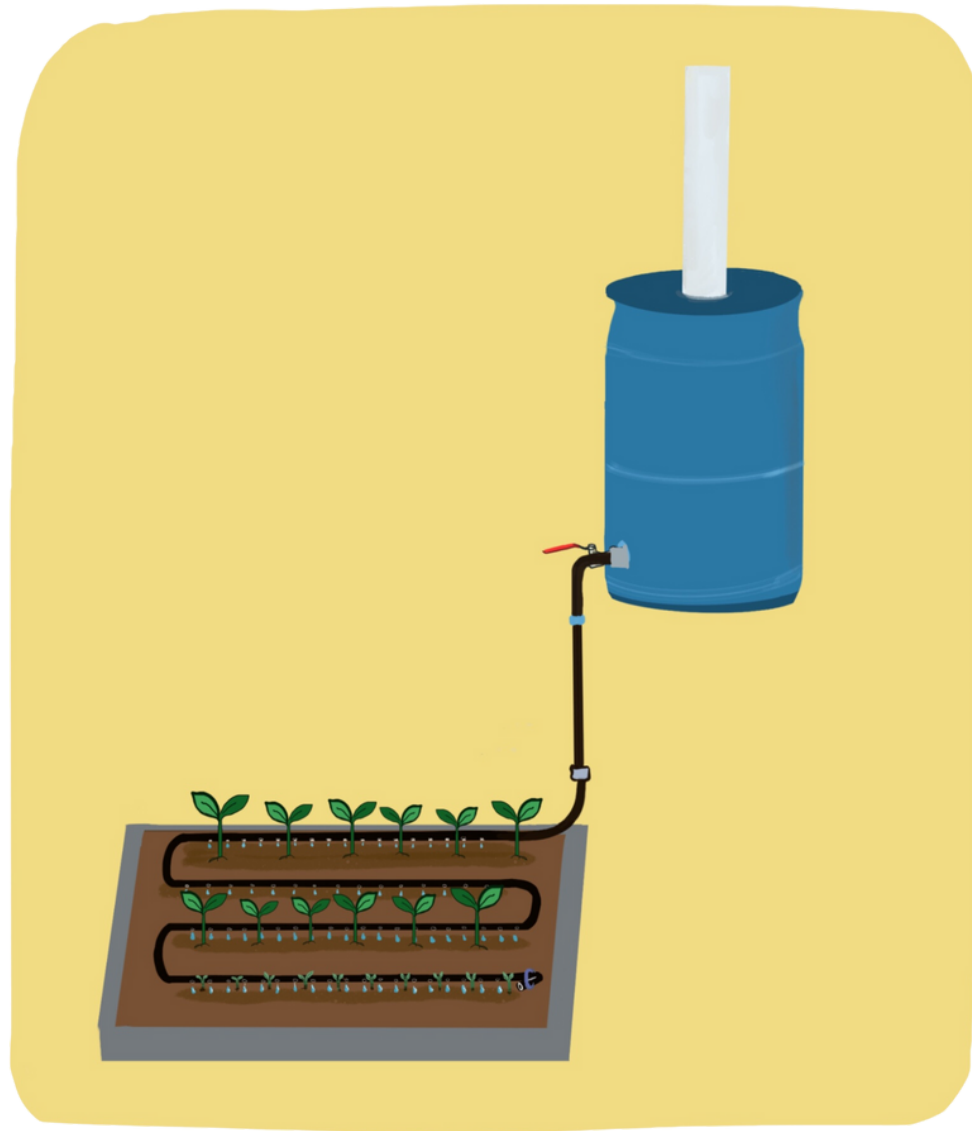
Upcycled delivery
pallet

Greenhouse bolted
to the floor

Old cooking
containers

Materials needed

Reuse materials as much as possible.



Reused pipes and containers.



Pallets for growing salads and herbs vertically.

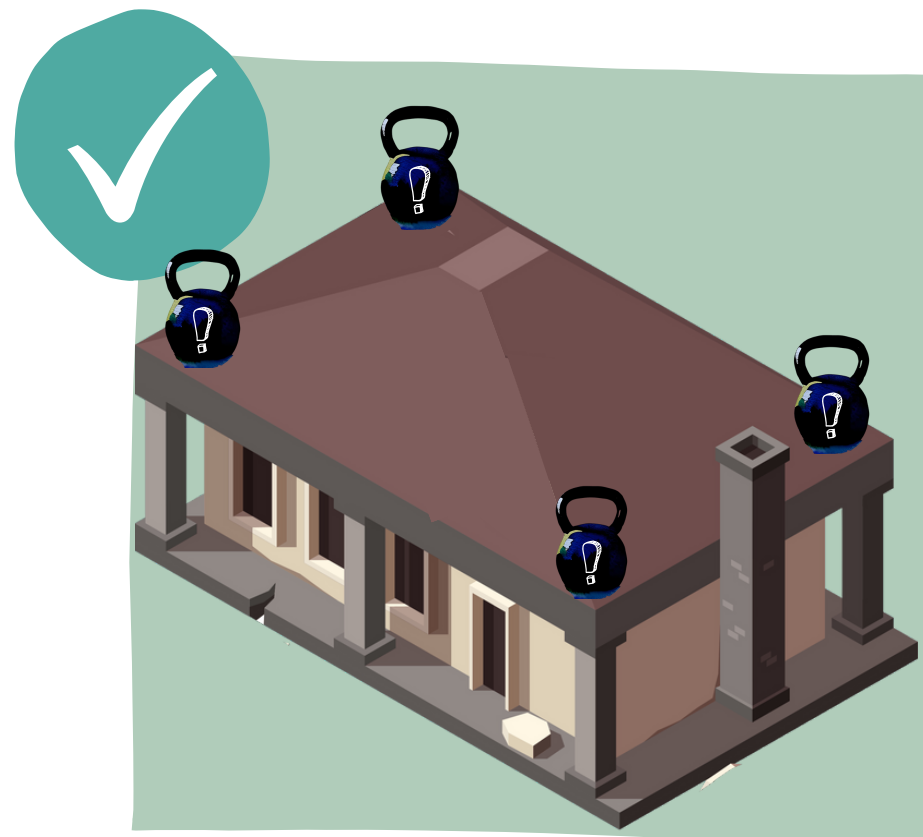


Old pots and trays for collecting water or growing seedlings.

Checking weight

Check the roof can take the weight of materials and wet soil.

The edges are stronger than the centre areas, so should be used for heavier structures. Make sure water or rain doesn't pool on the roof as it can degrade the roofing fabric.



A well watered cubic metre of soil is around 1500kg.

The roof needs safe and easy access. Use light material where possible, as everything needs to be carried onto the roof.



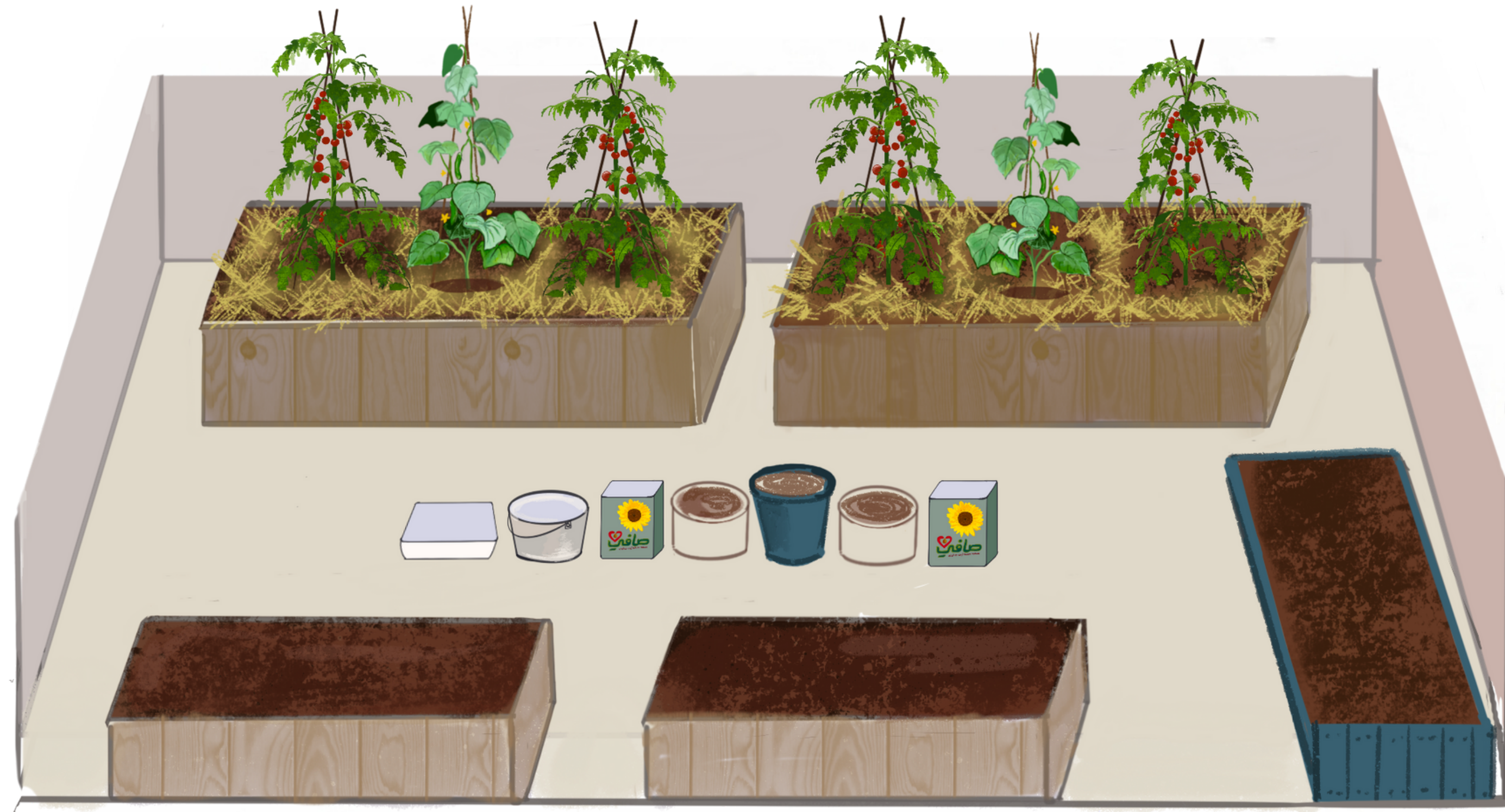
Constructing the beds

Re-use wood where possible, but avoid wood treated with harsh chemicals. If needed, line the bed with waterproof material to help hold the soil in place and retain moisture.

Create deep beds with space for roots to grow. Materials like wood and leaves can be layered in the bottom to fill up some space and used to mulch the surface.



Remember to put holes in the bottom of buckets to allow for drainage.



Growing in containers

Add plenty of compost and pick plants that grow together well. Plants that grow for many years (perennials) can be planted alongside annuals, helping to keep soil undisturbed and allowing soil life to thrive. Chop back annuals at the end of the season rather than digging them up.



Protect plants from sun and wind with screens or nets.

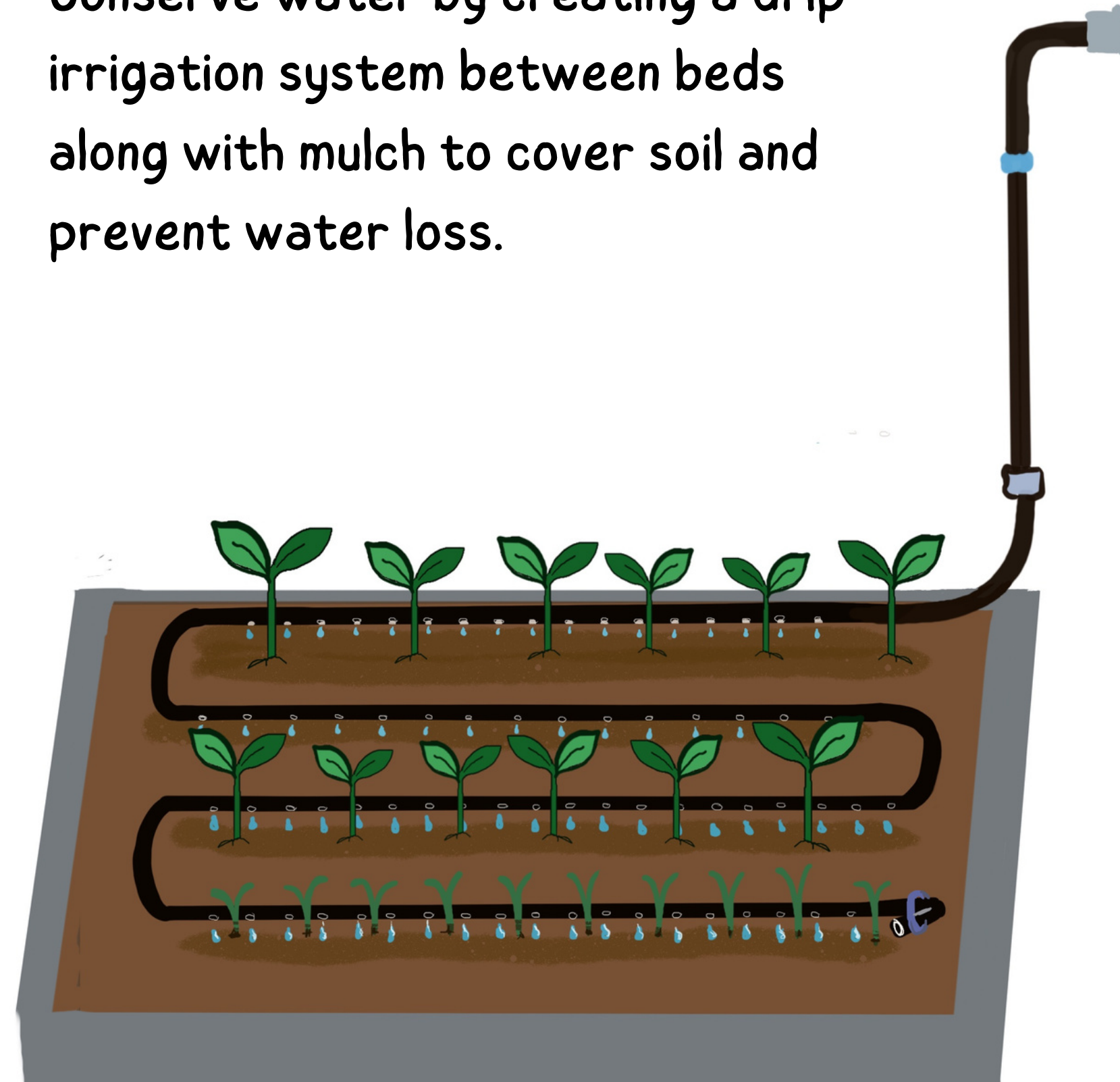
Grow small, light rooted plants like strawberries or herbs around deeper rooted vegetables to cover the soil. Protect the soil and conserve water with mulch like straw, dried grass or last year's rotting leaves.

Water on the roof

Add rainwater butts and gutters next to greenhouse or shade structures to supplement water from tanks.



Conserve water by creating a drip irrigation system between beds along with mulch to cover soil and prevent water loss.



Creating a social space

Add a space where you can sit together on the roof. This is especially important for people who cannot go outside.



CULTIVATING ON THE ROOF

Compost

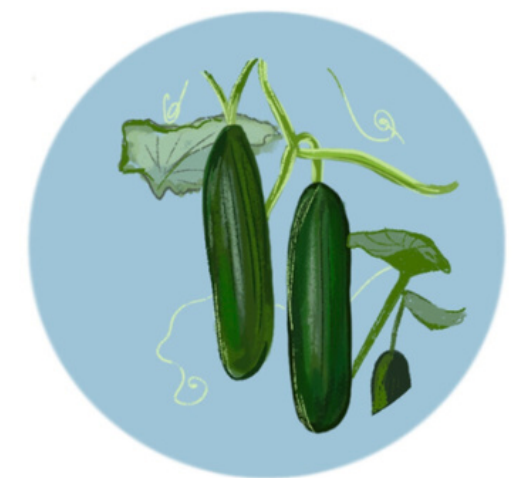
Use lightweight compost for the first year and collect household vegetable waste to make compost for future years. Mix material like coconut coir, biochar or compost into the soil making it lighter and helping it to absorb water and retaining moisture.



What to grow

Choose plants that can cope with sun and wind and grow in small spaces, with a mixture of roots, beans, herbs and leafy vegetables to ensure a balanced diet.

Grow as many perennials as possible, like tree crops. This means they will last for longer, and it's better for soil health, but they often have deeper roots so need a big container.

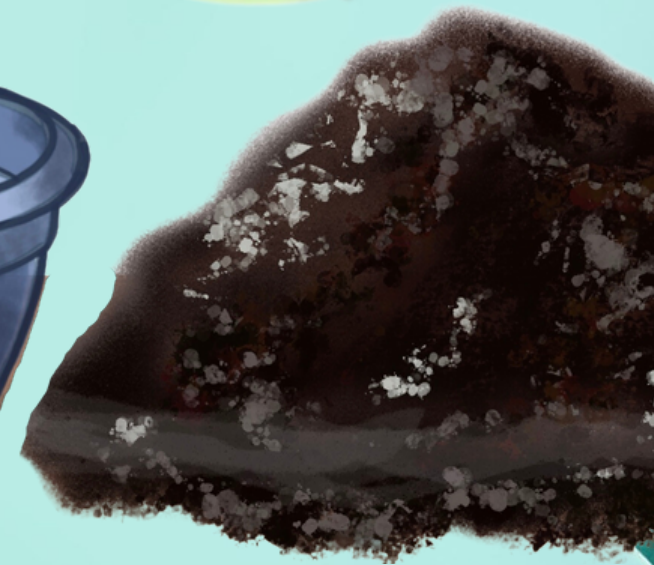


Save your seeds and build the soil

Leave beans and alliums to
flower and dry to make
seed for the next planting.



Dry seeds from red
peppers, cucumbers and
tomatoes and store in
containers when
completely dry, labelling
clearly for next year.



Supplement used soil with
additional compost or chicken
manure to keep it fertile.



Organic natural fertilisers

Start a wormery on the roof to make highly fertile compost, or make natural fertilisers from small amounts of compost or plants like comfrey, steeped in water for two weeks. This will all help to feed your plants.



Banana peel tea

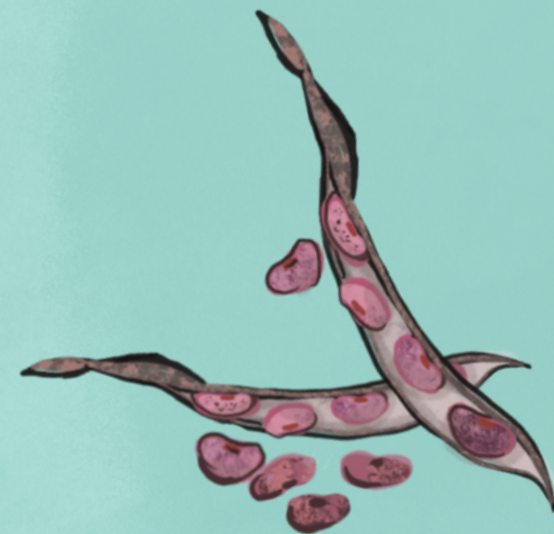


Alfalfa tea



Comfrey leaf tea





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