



## **Spruitje,**

By Jonael van der Sloot  
[www.spruitje.nu](http://www.spruitje.nu)

## **Sustainable worlds**

Spruitje makes futuristic designs with light and living ecosystems. Inspired by 70's design, science fiction movies and sustainable materials. Because of his fascination with primeval plants like ferns and moss - that have withstood the test of time - and the years of experimentation, Jonael van der Sloot knows exactly which plants keep each other balanced within a self-sufficient biotope. The works of Spruitje are living organisms that each have their own unique surroundings.

## **Big Brother**

Sustainable world in a round glass vase

Big Brother is a living ecosystem. After many experiments over an extended period of time, Spruitje found the right combination of plants and moss to create a world of self-sufficient raw nature. The moss and the condense form the basis and keep the ecosystem stable. Because every piece of work is unique, it's important to create a personal bond with the biotope.

## **Instructions**

The ecosystem of Big Brother lives in a large round glass vase, closed at the top by a cap with the light bulb holder. You open Big Brother by loosening the screws and turning the cap. Because it's a world of living nature, Big Brother keeps on changing. Sometimes you'll see more condense than other times, it's possible that a plant dies, mushrooms suddenly sprout up or other intriguing developments occur. It's a living organism that does whatever it wants to.

## Water

---

The condense is part of the design. To be more precise, it actually enables the work to be self-sufficient. It works a little as rain does in nature, and will therefore differ in intensity. Sometimes you'll see more condense than other times. Ideally the humidity in the ecosystem should be above 40%. The moss, which forms the basis of the little world, works best with this percentage. The moss is preferably dark green. A guideline to ensure the biotope is moist, is to water it every 6 months with about 500 ml of decalcified water. Decalcing can be done simply by boiling water without a lid. Of course you'll need to cool it properly. The easiest way to water it is by using a spray bottle. That way you can also clean the glass. Another way to clean the inside of the glass is with a bottle brush.

## Plants

---

After a few weeks you'll realise that the ecosystem is leading its own life. Plants can suddenly grow very quickly (or not at all), you'll discover a little mushroom, the moss will change colour... Don't worry if a plant dies, as this also happens in nature and is part of the cycle. On Spruitje.nu you can order new plants if you'd like to. You can trim dead plants, or plants that are getting too big.

## Light

---

The light in the design is purely aesthetic. It's a LED-light that doesn't give off a lot of warmth and therefore doesn't influence the ecosystem. If the light breaks, replace it with an identical (LED) light. Big Brother can't handle direct sunlight, because it'll get too warm. Bright, indirect sunlight does ensure a good balance in the ecosystem, so a light room is advised.

## Safety

---

- Only for indoor use.
- Only suitable for E27 LED-lights with a maximum of 5 Watt.
- Take the plug out of the socket before you change the LED-light.
- Always take the plug out of the socket when you look after the plants.
- Always take off the cap of the light bulb holder entirely before looking after the plants. The electric part must not get wet.
- Place the light on a stable and level surface.

Would you like to replace a plant? You can find a list of plants that work well within the ecosystem on Spruitje.nu. There you'll also find a video that shows you how to look after Big Brother.

