

At home with French botanist Patrick Blanc

The humble house in Paris that hides a tropical forest within

From the outside, French botanist Patrick Blanc's home on the south-eastern fringes of Paris appears unremarkable. The paintwork is peeling, and dirty shutters are rolled down over the windows. But inside it is a different story. A dazzling vertical garden — the concept that over the past three decades has helped project Blanc's reputation beyond academia into the realms of architecture and design — features 268 carefully selected plant species, and is also home to dozens of exotic lizards, frogs and birds.

