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The House of a Master Vertical Garden Designer

by Shawn Saleme

Vertical gardens have become more popular in recent years, with more and more people installing them in their homes and businesses. But one of the masters of vertical garden design, Patrick Blanc, has one of the most impressive gardens you're likely to see. His French home is covered floor to ceiling with foliage that has grown into a veritable vertical jungle over the last 25 years.



61-year-old Blanc creates his gardens by attaching metal frames to walls, covering them with PVC pipe and rot-proof felts, setting up irrigation systems within. His method has been featured in such places as the Marithé & François Girbaud boutique in Manhattan and the Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa, Japan. His dream house, though, is his greatest work. It is more than a garden; Blanc has gone above and beyond to create a truly living ecosystem. All his walls—save for one—are covered with plants, and there is even an outdoor jungle shower. Blanc explains a bit of his philosophy:

“Humanity is living more and more in cities, and at odds with nature. The plant wall has a real future for the well-being of people living in cities. A vertical garden is like a shop window, where all the plants are clearly visible. It’s quite different when you see a horizontal garden where everything is a matter of perspective. I think the biggest thing to highlight is the positive psychological effect vertical walls can have on those who look at them. The horizontal is finished – it is for us. But the vertical is still free.”



