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Sydney to House World's Tallest Vertical Garden



The merging of parkland and the dual towers of Sydney's One Central Park project is nearing completion as the final elements of the towers' anticipated [vertical garden](#) are installed.

Stretching 16 floors and 150 metres high, the project will hold the title for the tallest vertical garden in the world, says French artist and botanist Patrick Blanc.



Patrick Blanc, Botanist & Artist. Image: Central Park Sydney

“The building, together with my vertical garden, will be an architectural work floating in the air, with plants growing on the walls – it will create a very special result that will be very new to [Sydney](#),” he said.

Blanc is renowned for his ambitious projects and for modernising the vertical garden over 40 years ago with an extensive [green wall](#) portfolio. He prefers to call his work “living paintings” or “biological filters” that contribute to breathing life into cities and urban areas.

The \$2 billion [One Central Park](#) project has been developed over six hectares of land – which previously held a brewery – on the edge of Sydney’s CBD in Chippendale. It will consist of the two towers housing the vertical garden as well as mixed-use retail and green public spaces.

The two buildings feature a futuristic glass and steel design and are being developed by the Australian arm of Singaporean property developer Frasers Property and Japan’s Sekisui House. French [Pritzker Prize](#) winner Jean Nouvel is the architect behind the project, and he worked closely with Blanc on the green spaces.



One Central Park, Chippendale Sydney. Image: Design Revolution Australia

“Landscape is [architecture](#),” explains Nouvel. “Here we have created a continuity so the façades extend the park into the sky.”

The garden will adorn the roofs and will climb the building facades. It is expected to consist of 21 panels and planter boxes covering 1,120 square metres, with 35,200 plants from 383 native and exotic species used in the design.

Each of the vertical gardens will be automatically irrigated with the ability to be fertilised through the same system.

It is generally a challenge to grow foliage in [urban areas](#) and the plants chosen for this project have been extensively researched and tested to withstand seasonal conditions including Sydney’s harsh winds, heat and humidity.

Along with their green contribution, Blanc says the gardens will also “filter, renew and cool the air while insulating and shading the [apartment interiors](#), effectively creating a liveable micro-climate for the building.”

“You can have dehydration of the leaves, so you have to choose smaller leaves so they are more resistant to the wind,” he explains. “And you cannot choose plants with longer stems which can break; you cannot choose those with bigger flowers.”



One Central Park Towers Nearing Completion. Image: China Daily Asia

Australian landscape architect Keith Stead, who is also working with Blanc on the project, said the project will mark the first time vertical gardens of this scale have been planted.

“The biggest challenge has been working out how to get this much greenery on a building, and making sure that it will grow and thrive,” he says.

The towers also feature an impressive Sky level which will rise 28 floors above the parkland to include a cantilevered [sky garden](#) and swimming pool while housing the luxurious penthouses of One Central Park. Suspended beneath the sky garden, a heliostat will reflect sunlight to the atrium and park below, which has been dubbed “the chandelier for the city.”

Prospective residents need not wait to long to live in harmony with the natural world with the Sky level launched in April and the remaining apartments set to be fully completed by July 2013.