

Extreme gardening soothes the urban soul



Image: [The highest vertical gardens in the world are on this 113m tall building in Sydney.](#)
(Ann Jones)

In the middle of the city, where chewing gum sticks to the pavement, where the buses push bubbles of hot air into you as they go past, it isn't all just concrete and glass.

There are gardens taking root all over walls.

They're called living walls, or green walls, and they not really new – think the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

But their supporters say they purify and cool the air, insulate the buildings, increase biodiversity and promote psychological wellbeing.



[Image:](#) [Horticulturalist Andrew Wands tends the tallest vertical gardens in the world. \(Ann Jones\)](#)

A new development in the CBD has the tallest vertical gardens in the world – they’re 113 metres high, with plants growing in felt pockets over 30 stories up.

That’s gardening, with altitude.

And the people who tend it are extreme horticulturalists.



[Image:](#) [The highest vertical gardens in the world are attached to the new Central Park development in Sydney. \(Ann Jones\)](#)



[Image: Workers dangle off the side of an apartment building to tend the plants. \(Ann Jones\)](#)



[Image: Holly Fergusson and Nathan Wills start the green wall upkeep regime before dawn.](#)
[\(Ann Jones\)](#)



[Image: Plants are planted within felt slits in the wall. \(Ann Jones\)](#)



[Image: Plants are stapled in place high above the Sydney Streets. \(Ann Jones\)](#)



[Image: The traffic starts to gather below as Nathan Wills maintains vertical gardens in Sydney. \(Ann Jones\)](#)



[Image: Gardeners systematically plant down a green wall panel. \(Ann Jones\)](#)



[Image: Holly Fergusson admires the dawn view on a dreary Sydney morning. \(Ann Jones\)](#)