



Art of Vertical Garden

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One of this innovative company's interesting creations is the 'cocoon grass shelter', which has become an icon for the Sunway Bukit Gambier Open Space, in Penang. The ubiquitous concrete shelter, located in many local playgrounds, has often been used, over the years, as the perfect hiding place for young children during their games and activities. This structure now comes with an environmental friendly twist – in the form of a grass cocoon. The grass cocoon is not only visually pleasing it also serves to cut down heat absorption. It also provides a cooler shelter in which children can play and enjoy their weekends with friends.



Green living walls are most often found, and most are most useful, in urban environments, where the plants reduce overall temperatures of the building, which in turn reduces energy consumption. Living walls may also be a means for water reuse and are particularly suitable for cities, as they allow good use of available vertical surface areas. They are also suitable in arid areas, as the circulating water on a vertical wall is less likely to evaporate than in horizontal gardens.

In today's living, the living walls or vertical gardens could also function for urban agriculture or urban gardening. It may be built as a work of art for its beauty. It is sometimes built indoors to help cure "sick building syndrome". Besides the benefits as mentioned, vertical gardens, as created by LandArt Design, possess additional functions to suit the individual needs of the end users.

'cocoon grass shelter', has become an icon for the Sunway Bukit Gambier Open Space, Penang





A four meter high random green box wall was created as a partition to separate the swimming pool area from the pool bar area at G Hotel, Penang

When considering aesthetic and space separation, a vertical living wall can do the trick. At the poolside of G-Hotel, Penang, a four meter high random green box wall was created as a partition to separate the swimming pool area from the pool bar area. The visual line of this construction has been further enhanced with interesting textures and linings, metal boxes filled with iris plants, orange coloured lines and wooden panelling with hidden lighting fixtures. This has created a beautiful ambiance with the effect of the vertical garden, reflected in the pool of the water feature.

In urban areas, we are often struggling for space when creating a green oasis in the tiny living quarters available. Roof top vertical gardens may be the solution for busy urbanites. Living green walls can serve as a screen from unpleasant sights, such as nearby construction, and even as a feature wall for water features. They also help to reduce the urban heat absorption for the entire apartment.

According to Phua, from LandArt Design, there are always ways to create green magic with a simple, vertical wall structure. For example, old railway sleepers can be arranged, in a seemingly random manner, and decorated with red cacti, planted in cups originally used for rubber tapping.

Disarmingly simple, this solution creates an aesthetically pleasing view for one of LandArt's private residence garden projects, in Penang, and can do the same for your next design.

In addition, the vertical green wall is planted with Guzmania plants and Ophiopogon jaburan dwarf and in turn forms the Chinese symbol of 'Happy Fish'. It also serves the practical purpose of effectively screening the storeroom behind the feature wall.

In vertical garden design, we must continue to explore all available options and expand our creativity beyond our imagination. The fundamental knowledge is within all landscape architects, yet the functionality and practicality of these designs have to work hand-in-hand with the artistry and creativity of the product, in order to create effective, beautiful and functional LIVING WALL ART.



Guzmania plants and Ophiopogon jaburan dwarf forms the Chinese symbol of 'Happy Fish' at Mr Yong's Residence, Penang

Old railway sleepers can be arranged in a seemingly random manner to form the wall and decorated with red cacti planted in cups originally used for rubber tapping