

backyard

IDEAS BOOK

GREEN WALLS

Create a vertical garden for year-round interest

deck it out

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STRAIGHT UP

When you want to go vertical, a green wall isn't your only choice. Wall-mounted pots, bought from your garden centre or homewares store and arranged in an artful way, are one way to go. Another is custom-building a series of planters and attaching them, one above the other, to an exterior wall or a frame. Faced with a storage shed that was impinging on the outdoor living area, Growing Rooms decided the custom planter route was the best way to camouflage the structure. Each planter was made from treated recycled hardwood and fully waterproofed. For ease of watering, given the height of the construction, each trough has an irrigation system. The planters overflow with *Ctenanthe*, *Blechnum* 'Silver Lady', *Nephrolepis*, *Tradescantia zebrina*, *Vriesea*, *Aechmea*, *Philodendron* 'Xanadu', *Liriope muscari* 'Just Right', *Peperomia obtusifolia* and *Syngonium podophyllum*. The different greens are offset by the warm tones of the spotted gum decking and the timber of the planters. growingrooms.com.au



HANGING ABOUT

Hanging pots are another way to introduce greenery when you're short on ground space. These are ideal for trailing plants, ferns, flowering plants such as *Columnnea gloriosa* (goldfish plant) and colourful annuals such as primulas. If using a mix of plants, place the cascading ones around the sides of the pot.

JUST FLOAT AWAY

Cantilevered seating is a very effective space-saver. You can pull a table in close to create a dining area or you can simply sit back and relax, knowing you haven't cluttered up a small backyard with bulky store-bought furniture. For many, though, the real appeal is the "floating" effect. There is something quite mesmerising about a cantilevered seat — or a benchtop or shelf — that appears to hover above ground. And it helps make the space feel as open as possible. The cantilevered seating in this garden, designed by Growing Rooms, was built using aluminium framing which was core-drilled onto the retaining wall and clad with spotted gum timber. Underneath, LED strip lighting was installed, which adds an extra element to the floating look at night. The wall, which incorporates raised planters, was built of steel-reinforced, core-filled blocks that were rendered and texture-coated. Foliage tumbles over the planters, softening the look of the seating area. growingrooms.com.au



WONDER WALLS

Well-built retaining walls present a host of opportunities. You can incorporate planters into their design, allowing you to introduce plants in places you might not otherwise have been able to, they can be used as the support for cantilevered seating, and they can be a means of bringing colour and texture into a design.