



Hanging gardens

The desire to have lush gardens in our backyard is unfortunately nothing but a pipe dream if you happen to reside in Dhaka's concrete jungle. With the very little living space most of us have in apartments, it is truly a luxury to even have a corner for planters, let alone an entire space dedicated to greenery. Thinking outside the box will grant you the wisdom of abandoning all hopes for horizontal space, and instead, capitalising on the vertical real estate instead.



Having greenery arranged vertically, otherwise known as vertical gardens, is what people have turned to for their lack of space, and this aesthetic form of planting is almost better than art. The sky is literally the limit when it comes to creating a vertical garden; which is why it is so important to not get carried away, but to sit down and plan it out first. Before you pick up those tools and start clearing your walls, take some time to decide how you want your garden to be. More importantly, consider points like where exactly you want it, and how it will survive.

PALLET WALLS

One of the simplest ways to set up a garden along a wall, these use plain wooden pallets, and set up similar to a book shelf, except the front side is boxed instead of being open so the soil has a place to sit in. Initially, this will not look too special, but once the plants have grown out enough, it will start to cover the front, giving it the

impression of a green wall. These pallets can be set up in patterns or consecutively to fill an entire wall.

CORNER CHARMS

For most of us, corners are more of a bother than a pleasure because all they seem to do is collect dust, but having some greens all through will not only prevent that, but add to the whole ambience as well. Triangular racks work just fine for this purpose, and if they are made of grills, that's even better. Have creeper plants potted in some of the racks, and let them loose. Once they have gone through every grill and rod and climbed all the way up, it will look nothing short of a magical corner.

HERBAL GOODNESS

Although the hanging gardens of Babylon were not actually hanging, these herb gardens in your home sure will be. The kitchens in most homes are too small for commodities, let alone a personal corner for greens. However, that should not sway us from our goal of eating fresh herbs right out of a pot. One can attach multiple small planters on chains and hang them side by side vertically against a wall. Or to

maximise space even more, hang a series of heavy metal rods and attach a number of pots to each. Herbs do not require a lot of soil, so small pots work great and let you increase the type of herbs you want to grow. Plant your favourite herbs and have your own little wilderness in the kitchen.

SERVED IN TRAYS

This type of vertical garden requires a little more work because the soil itself is almost vertically set. These trays are thick, and have compartments or cells that are slightly angled and have holes in the bottom for drainage. It is wise to use plants here that have shallow roots, like succulents. If you wish to have other perennials, the tray will have to be thicker.

TRELLIS WALLS

This is a great project for wide empty wall spaces. Triangular trellis panels have this gravity towards them that looks absolutely amazing. Attach hooks on each intersection. Some people like to hang cloth or leather pouches that hold planters, while others like to use planters directly on hooks. Let your imagination go wild.

