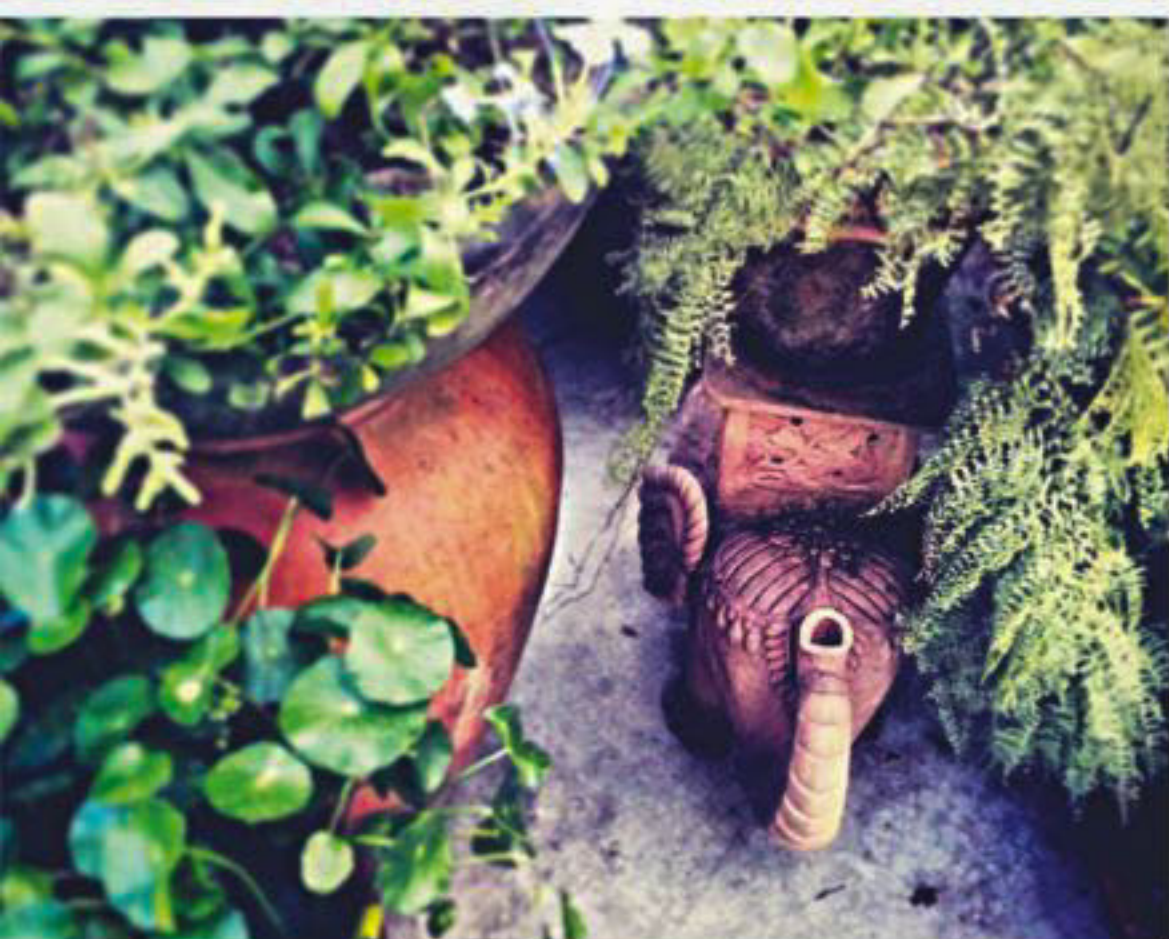


ROOM DIVIDERS

Since we are going vertical, why not make a room divider out of it while we are at it, because there are large open spaces that need semi-separation, but something too solid like a wall would make it too claustrophobic. A large frame with wire netting serves as a perfect separation that is just airy and light enough. Hang on terracotta, plastic or metal pots of choice in any pattern onto the netting and let those plants thrive. Make sure the netting is very firmly fixed so it does not break or tear with the weight of planters and pots. This will look no less than an architectural art in the middle of a plain space.

PETITE POCKET GARDEN

There are about a hundred ways to achieve a pocket garden. While some go up to 30 feet, some are small enough for our door. One of the easiest ways to achieve this is to use a good old shoe hanger, and make sure it is a strong and sturdy one and has good drainage. If it does not, poke some holes in the bottom of each pouch. Hang it using a rod or hooks, and fill it in using moisture



retaining soil, and plant in your seeds. Have a collector in the bottom to collect water, and a barrier from the wall, otherwise the water will create moulds in the back. This is a super easy and fun project to do, especially with kids.

UP-CYCLED DRESSER

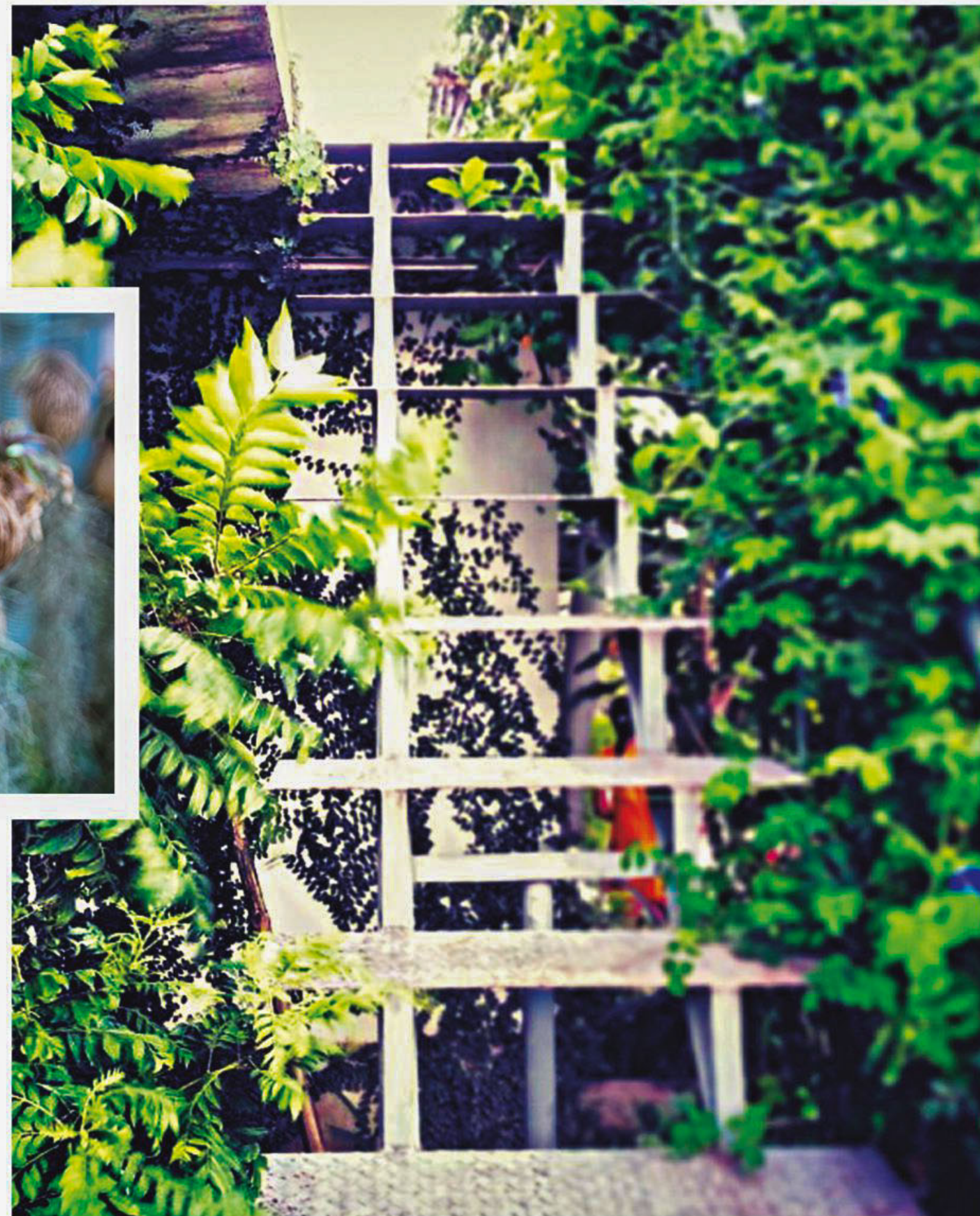
This is perfect if you happen to have an old



dresser lying around. Arrange the drawers in a descending manner, where the bottom drawer is fully open, the next a little less and so on, while the top is least open. Throw in your soil and seeds and let those greens grace your space like a lush green waterfall.

LOOK OUT

Because this is a garden, lighting and watering play the two most important roles. If your indoor garden does not get a lot of light, take it out every once in a while to bathe it in sunlight. If possible, attach



Expert opinion

Karman Nanda is a past research associate at Bengal Institute and specialises in aeroponic engineering. His opinions, tips and experiences on Vertical Gardening will surely be of help to anyone looking to start their own little garden.

"Vertical gardens need special kinds of pots that keep the soil intact while simultaneously getting irrigated with the least amount of water and there are a few ways of doing that. If your vertical garden is based on a hydroponic setup, then there is no soil required at all, or no constant watering, as the background setup controls the growth and process. If

it is indoor, I would suggest using a hydroponic or aeroponic setup because the maintenance is easy, and all the processes happen within the system.

Dhaka's air is really dusty and polluted, so sometimes the dust staying on these plants, stops the process of photosynthesis, and restricts the growth of the plant. To avoid that a mist sprinkler could be used.

If the pots are not able to hold the soil, we have to use other methods and technologies to fix that. Maintenance of the garden also needs a professional help, as the average gardener will not be able to do that unless he is educated to do that. Also, the placement of the vertical garden in a space is important,

and depending on that, one has to decide on the plants, as some plants like sun, some do not, some like rain and some do not.

I think an architect or designer can design the setup, but you need a professional who can supply ingredients to maintain it and run it, otherwise it becomes too difficult for the client. A vertical garden can be simpler to understand and set up, but the client will have to take personal interest in maintaining it. For example, in a hydroponic setup, you need NPK nutrients, but they have to be given in different quantities every now and then and the common man does not have this knowledge."

wheels on the bottom, and if it is one that is permanently fixed, make sure it has direct sunlight before building it.

Watering is crucial for these because containers dry out faster than garden beds. Some people work with sprinklers, others with a set irrigation system, but these are mostly for fixed designs for which an architect or interior designer will be able to help.

An urban life calls for small spaces, but utilising those dull corners and cement



walls in clever ways is what makes these small apartments bearable. These versatile gardens not only function as a piece of art, but also keep the air circulating and brighten the entire atmosphere. Although these are solutions to inside gardening, it can surely be taken outside as well to maximise greenery.

By Anisha Hassan

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Old ladders work great for small verandas and are much less work. Secure them to a wall and stack them up with your favourite plants to save space.

