



# GREEN WALLS & GREEN ROOFS:

The hottest architectural trends to hit South Africa's estates.

## Growing up with green walls

Green Walls allow homeowners to clad bare walls with lush, living plants. Vertical gardens, as they are called, can be installed indoors or outdoors. Typically, plants for vertical gardens are selected based on the amount of light that the wall receives. Interior and shady green walls suit ferns, indoor plants and mosses. These are the plants that in nature grow under dense canopies of trees, in forests and jungles, and even in caves. In your home, where required, additional lighting systems may be installed. Exterior green walls are well suited to grasses and flowering plants. Some mosses can be grown in full sun. Herbs generally need good light, though some do well on shadier walls.

## Raising plants on green rooftops

Green Roofs allow homeowners to cover balconies and roofs with gardens. They are soil-based. Soil, when saturated is very heavy so there are structural limits to what can be achieved, but in most cases, there's usually space and the means to add value to a property. South African estate dwellers are waking up to the idea of breakfast on their green balcony and picking herbs off their walls. In estates, where space can be limited, these features can open doors to previously inconceivable design

possibilities. Green walls and roofs can range from small and stylish installations to large constructions that are decorative and functional focal points, adding life and art to building surfaces.

## Vertical Landscapes & Rooftop Landscapes:

Vertical Landscapes is a specialist manufacturer and installer of vertical gardens. The company constructs vertical gardens using a variety of systems, ranging from their premium hydroponic system to more traditional hanging pot and planter bag systems.

Justin Sam, managing director of Vertical and Rooftop Landscapes added, "Our vertical gardens hydroponic system is unique and novel. Its design allows for optimal conditions for long-term plant growth. We design reliable irrigation systems from small portable installations to large scale pump control and monitoring systems." Rooftop Landscapes are specialists in the construction of green roofs. Built-in-place green roofs are constructed directly on the roof deck, using a variety of methods. With modular green roofs, all plants are contained in modular planter trays and pots. Managing director, Justin

Sam, added, "These methods of construction have their own advantages and disadvantages. Our unique product offering is that we manage all aspects of the construction from design to implementation and maintenance, protecting your long-term investment, from the waterproofing to the plants."

He added, "Like any garden, green roofs and green walls do require maintenance. We offer a one-year renewable maintenance contract with each green roof and green wall we construct, ensuring that our clients' walls and roofs stay green. We also sell DIY units that clients can look after themselves. We aim to be the leading green wall and green roof contractor in the country. We take the time to ensure that our projects are sustainable and add value to our clients' properties."

For more information on how Vertical Landscapes and Rooftop Landscapes can green your home, contact Justin Sam 073 486 6288.

[www.verticallandscapes.co.za](http://www.verticallandscapes.co.za)  
[www.rooftoplandscapes.co.za](http://www.rooftoplandscapes.co.za)

Images: Vertical Landscapes and Rooftop Landscapes