

# vertical STATEMENT



Passionate about the creation of sustainable native gardens, Andrew Beck from Sustainable Garden Design Perth explains how he created two vertical gardens on one property.

I have always been inspired by the Japanese design aesthetic, particularly their preference for using natural materials such as stone, wood and copper. The two screens or plant walls represent two different points in the garden which help to define private and intimate inner spaces from public spaces. I would describe the two pieces, one an outdoor shower screen and the other a decorative privacy screen, as two different takes on vertical gardens. Particularly, I like the idea of entering unexpected spaces as you move from the house into the garden.

The key elements in the shower screens are the copper vessels and the opaque backing materials which allow light and shadows to filter through and act as a kind of vertical green house. The particular selection of succulents 'Chalk Fingers' and 'The Jelly Bean Plant' was very much governed by the hot position the shower screen occupied in the garden.

The major components of the second screen are the natural suspended river stone pebbles, jarrah sleepers and the three terrazzo bowls. The vines selected were an ornamental grape vine which offers autumn colour and a native wisteria vine to provide the all-year-round screening. The suspended bowls are filled with a selection of cascading succulents including 'Trailing Lotus' and 'String of Bananas' (*Senecio radicans*). The plants underneath the screen are a mixture of native sedges (*Lepidosperma gladiatum* and *Lepidosperma longitudinale*), cardboard palm and decorative potato vine. The ground covers include a selection of native violet, wide-leafed *Myoporum parvifolium* and silver dichondra.



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