

The Hamptons
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Beach

MODERN LUXURY

"Writing is like driving at night in the fog. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way."

—E.L. DOCTOROW, SAG HARBOR,
JAN. 6, 1931-JULY 21, 2015

A MOST MAGNIFICENT YEAR

AMAGANSETT'S
ALESSANDRO NIVOLA
INTERVIEWED BY
BRADLEY COOPER

A LITERARY
MORSEL
BY KURT VONNEGUT

Food & Fiction

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BRIDGEHAMPTON'S FRESH PRINCE, SUSAN ROCKEFELLER'S FOOD FOR
THOUGHT, ROMAN ROTH'S PAIRING PROWESS, NAVY BEACH'S
RECIPE FOR SUCCESS, JOHN STEINBECK BY THE NUMBERS

UPWARD MOBILITY

Frederico Azevedo of Bridgehampton's **Unlimited Earth Care** details his favorite vertical gardens and gives tips on how you can set up one of your own.



GROWN AWAY From top: A vertical garden with fern, liriope, Japanese variegated grass, ajuga and ivy; Unlimited Earth Care founder Frederico Azevedo.



"The look of a well-designed and healthy vertical garden can be extraordinary, and the variety of color and textures available can dramatically transform and beautify any environment."

As long as you have a blank wall or a bare fence, you can have a beautiful vertical garden with herbs, vegetables, annual flowers (which live just one season) and perennial flowers (which live for three or more seasons). A vertical garden can expand the horticulture horizon far beyond ground level and satisfy your love of being surrounded by nature. Here are some tips that cover the basics:

- Like all landscape designs, these gardens benefit most from proper planning and knowledge of the resources you'll be utilizing. Plants that can cohabitate happily in a mixed vertical garden include succulents, sedums, colorful coleus and several types of grasses, such as carex grass. Different ferns, like the Japanese painted fern, and annuals, such as lobelia or Million Bells petunias, can be combined into a single variety planted in a group of pockets to form a vertical garden that's bursting with bright colors.
- Plants can be sold in a variety of garden-ready containers to suit your specific needs or goals. Flowers, vegetables, herbs and vines are planted in pouches composed of recycled material. These pouches are sold both individually and in rows of three, five or more, and they can last for 20 years. Metal grommets make them easy to attach to a wall with screws.
- The average 15-by-24-inch pocket, which can hold up to 20 pounds of soil, is best for holding annuals, perennials and small vegetables. Whether you're planting in a sunny site or an area of dry shade, the soil should be supplemented with soil conditioners, fertilizers and peat moss. Using the right soil from the start will not only permit the plants to thrive in a proper potted environment, but will also sort out any drainage issues. Succulents grow best in a drought-tolerant cactus mix, while flowers and vegetables fare better in a rich mix soil.
- You can also compose your vertical garden with trays, which are similar to nursery flats. These rectangular plastic trays are divided into planting compartments with bottom holes that allow for drainage and aeration. Trays come with brackets for mounting and are best suited for smaller perennials, annuals, shallow root succulents and vegetables such as lettuce.
- Watering can be done in several different ways. If plants are within easy reach, they can be watered with a hose or watering can. Larger or taller gardens will require an automatic gravity irrigation system, where the drip lines run through the open channels in the backs of the pockets or trays and the water falls into the top chamber before trickling down into each individual cell. This process also replenishes the moisture mats, allowing the roots of the plants to absorb water from both the soil and the mats.

The look of a well-designed and healthy vertical garden can be extraordinary, and the variety of color and textures available can dramatically transform and beautify any environment. The aptly named "art of vertical gardening" is definitely—pun intended—on the rise. 2249 Scuttle Hole Road, Bridgehampton, unlimitedearthcare.com