

Interior landscaping

The design trend of bringing the outside in is set to get even bigger this year with living artworks and plants taking up entire walls as people begin to landscape inside their homes. Words: Ulrike Lemmin-Woolfrey

Interior landscaping is a global trend previously found in large spaces such as office block lobbies, public buildings, hotels and even airports. Just think of the patch of jungle right inside of Singapore's Changi Airport or the vast gardens in the Barbican Conservatory in London.

Defined as 'the practice of designing, installing and maintaining greenery and biophilic elements inside buildings', interior landscaping 'doesn't only look pretty, it also has measurable benefits.'

Why do it?

Michael Clarke, a landscape architect and horticulturist, explains: "Interior landscaping brings vital amounts of oxygen inside buildings and can help filter out carbon dioxide, dust and other indoor pollutants."

Inside large buildings without natural ventilation and where windows often don't fully open, plants not only boost oxygen levels but also provide freshness to sterile environments. Whether it's in at office or at home, Michael adds: "This can be especially beneficial for allowing people to connect with nature and reduce their stress load, letting the mind rest and refocus."

What are the essential elements?

David Angelov, CEO and founder of PlantParenthood, says: "When building an interior garden space or decorating your home with plants, consider the design elements of each room. What colours have you selected, what's the theme?"

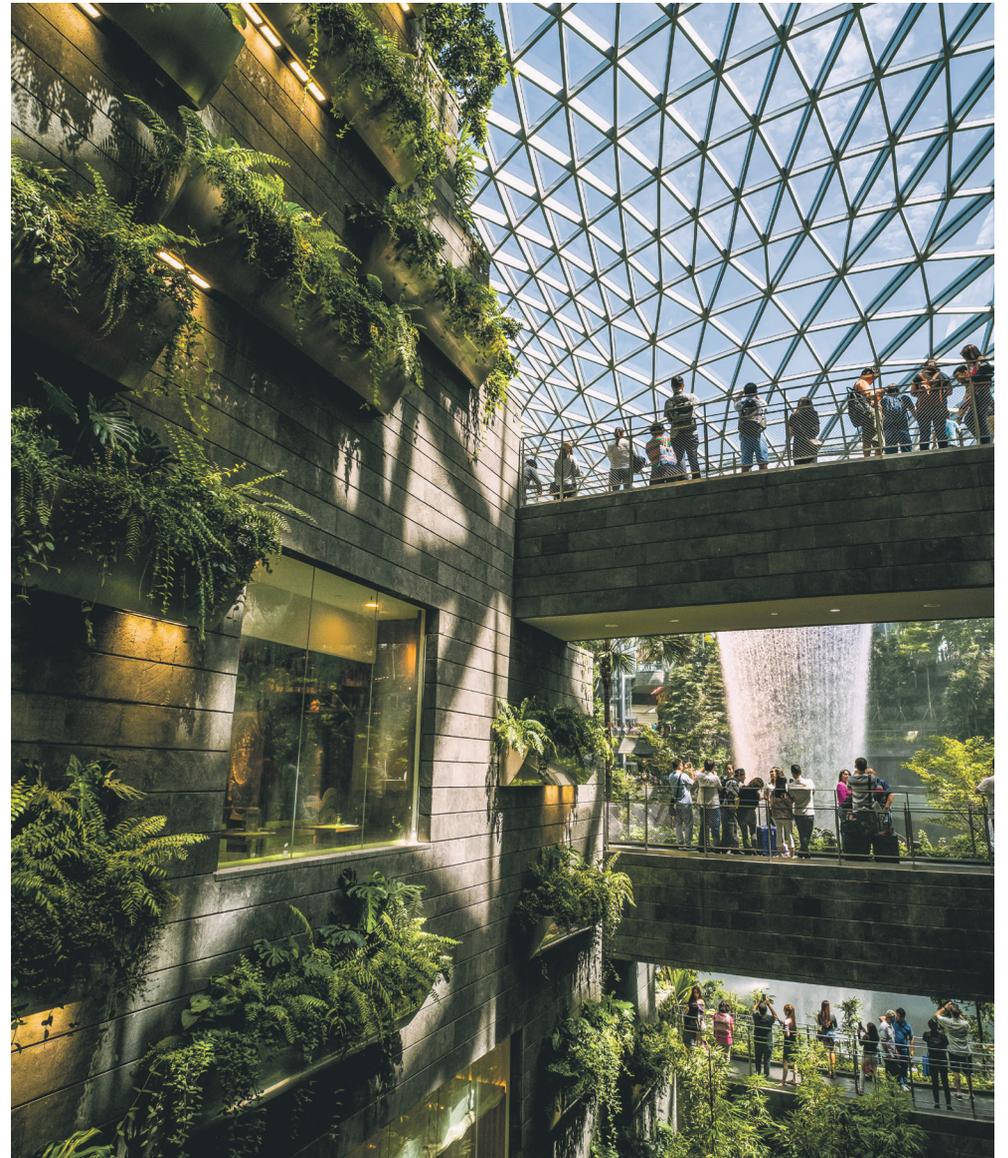
Anyone can, of course, add some plants to a room or line pots along a windowsill — the difference with interior landscaping is in the volume and creativity.

David suggests: "Use a combination of air plants, moss and succulents and fix them to a board and frame and hang it on the wall. Now, you have a live piece of artwork that you mist once a week with a spray bottle."

You could also find an old ladder at your local car boot sale and use it as a mini vertical garden, gluing small pots onto each rung and propping it against an unused corner in your room as a feature piece.

If you're worried that adding lots of plants into your home could make it feel cluttered, David disagrees: "The plants will actually make a home feel bigger — try putting plants in a long planter in your hall or mudroom, or perhaps place plants at the top and bottom of stairs and accent the plant colours with artwork."

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▲ Viewing platform at the Jewel at Changi Airport, Singapore PHOTOGRAPH: ALAMY



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