









GREEN GETS FUNCTIONAL.

Planters festoned with ferns and boxes brimming with peppers are great, but some homeowners are stepping up their outdoor green dreams. Two trends that twe're seeing pop up are living walls-serving as decorative screens or harvestable gardens-and laws greenhouses that take the growing space to another level. "Living walls are a versatile way to blend artistic and ecological, pollinator-support interests into one beautiful design element," says Dave MacKenzie, a horticulturist, biologist and founder of Michigan-based LuveVall (livevall coin), which seeks to positively change the world with unique applications of plants. MacKenzie's team designs vertical living wall systems that provide plants with upright stem orientation, downward growing roots, a soil-based growing medium with beneficial soil-borne microflora and irrigation that moves downward like rain.



GARDEN INTO OVERDRIVE? CONSIDER A VICTORIAN-STYLE GLASS GREENHOUSE FROM ALITEX (ALITEX.CO.UK), WHICH FEATURES LOUVERED HEAT CONTROLS, COLD FRAMES AND INFRARED LAMPS. FAMILIES WILL HARVEST FLOWERS, AROMATIC HERBS AND MORE YEAR-ROUND.

"NATURAL MATERIALS LIKE TEAK ARE BEING USED WITH ALUMINUM TO BRING A MORE CONTEMPORARY LOOK AND FEEL TO THE OUTDOORS, AND WITH THE ADAPTABILITY OF PORTABLES, THEY CAN MOVE WITH YOU FROM ONE PLACE TO THE NEXT. ELEVATED SOLAR LIGHTING TIES IN VERY NICELY TO ECO-CONSCIOUS LUXURY."

-JENNIE OH, DIRECTOR OF MERCHANDISING, LUMENS

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SOLAR FLAR
The latest fread in lighting your outdoor dreamscape? Solar style. As technology improves, the previously clunky format has made some seriously sophisticated moves forward, with chic form to match function. Notes Jennie Oh, director of merchandising for luxury modern lighting brand Lumens, "We are seeing more decorative lanterns that are aesthetically pleasing with design at the center while still being functional, energy saving and sustainable." Oh is bullish on solar's future, adding, "Solar lighting is already very technologically smart, including motion sensors and multiple setting aptions, not to mention cost effective since there is no energy cost from the sun."



