

FACT SHEET

Patrick Blanc's vertical gardens at One Central Park...

a new organic architecture

Sydney, November 2012 – The joint venture developers of Central Park, Frasers Property Australia and Sekisui House Australia have commissioned renowned French botanist and artist, Patrick Blanc, to produce a series of vertical gardens at the Jean Nouvel-designed, One Central Park development within the Central Park precinct in Sydney's Chippendale.

Frasers Property first commissioned Blanc to design a vertical garden for the developer's award-winning Trio development in Camperdown.

Through years of scientific research and observation of all plant life, Patrick Blanc discovered a process which allows plants, flowers, mosses, vines and shrubs to grow without soil along the face of a wall. This is achieved by attaching their roots to a mesh-covered felt, soaked with mineralised water.

Key facts:

Vertical gardens at One Central Park:	21 panels covering 1,120 sqm
Species used in all vertical gardens:	383
Plants used in all vertical gardens:	35,200

The vertical gardens at One Central Park vary in size, however the tallest vertical garden which is Blanc's tallest vertical garden in the world, measures:

Height:	42 metres
Width:	4 metres

Types of species used:

Exotic and Australian native plants have been included on the living wall, from well known to quite rare species. Some of the more recognized names include Acacias, Alocasuarina, Carex, Correa, Dianella, Goodenia, Grevillea, Lomandra, Poa, Themeda, Viola.

Patrick Blanc has a patent on the matting used to create the vertical garden. It is a multi-layered matting with weed matting for strength and non-biodegradable felt for water-holding capacity. The matting was imported from France for all of One Central Park's vertical gardens.

Hydration:

The vertical gardens use a dripper irrigation system comprising lines running across the wall at approx 4.5 metre intervals. Each one is run in turn, approx 5 - 6 times per day depending on the seasons and can be remotely controlled to increase or decrease the watering cycles as required by the environment.

All recycled water will come from the Recycled Water Facility located in the basement of the building (when this facility is completed in July next year. In the short term the water used on the wall is potable water from the town mains).

Preparation:

100,000 seedlings were planted and nurtured at various nurseries in New South Wales, Queensland. The plants were transferred to the Central Park site immediately prior to planting when they are in 100mm pots.

Maintenance:

The maintenance team visually inspect the vertical garden weekly from the ground and monthly via a swing stage, involving a full day's work for two people as they carefully inspect the plants, hydration and structure of the garden. Similar to any garden, the team check for plant health, treat against pests and diseases, prune plants that need it, and remove any rubbish.

Design:

The vertical gardens are designed to withstand seasonal conditions; plants which thrive with large exposure to sun and sunlight are selected for the top of the wall, such as Acacias (wattles) and poa (grasses) while more delicate plants such as goodenia (hop bush) and viola (native violet), which require more hydration, are chosen for the bottom.

Central Park's vertical gardens are designed on the concept of *fluidity* – to create the impression of a fluid, soft and inviting garden with gentle curves in colour, shape and texture of plants.

Construction:

The construction and installation of the vertical wall has been integrated into the 28-month building programme for the One Central Park project and includes the installation of the control room (pumps, filtration, tanks etc), wall frames and boards, irrigation, felt and finally the plants.

Other projects:

Patrick Blanc has worked with many famous architects including Jean Nouvel, Andrée Putman, Francis Soler, Edouard François, Jacqueline et Henri Boiffils, Herzog et de Meuron, Marc Newson, Saguez et Partners.

Patrick Blanc's projects in Australia:

- Frasers Property's Trio development in Camperdown (2009)
- Melbourne Central Shopping Centre (2008)
- Qantas Sydney Lounge (2007)
- Qantas Melbourne Lounge (2007)

Biography: PATRICK BLANC

Born 3 June 1953, Patrick Blanc is both a botanist working for the French National Center for Scientific Research and an artist.

He started creating Vertical Gardens, which are renowned architectural features at various locations around the world, in Paris in 1994.

He strives to introduce art and a sense of well-being into the core of our cities, which he persuades us to perceive differently. A whole new dimension of architecture has come into being as concrete walls are transformed into havens for biodiversity.



Awards:

- Award winner, French Science Society, Botany, 1993
- Award winner, Innovation Contest, 1999. Ministère de la Recherche.
- Talent d'or 2002 du Sommet du Luxe et de la Création
- Virgile prize for the book « Etre Plante à l'ombre des forêts tropicales » 2003
- Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, 2005
- Silver medal, Architecture Academy, 2005