

## Patrick Blanc

Patrick Blanc is a French botanist, working at the French National Centre for Scientific Research, where he specializes in plants from tropical forests. He is the modern innovator of the green wall. In 2009, he was awarded an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Patrick is widely regarded as a great artist, a designer, and the inventor of modern green wall. Blanc, after graduating and taking a PhD in Natural Sciences in 1979, began working at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique as a scientist specialized in tropical plants, and making scientific expeditions as all respectable scientists do.

His encyclopedic knowledge of plants is proverbial and, in 2011, Blanc discovered in the Philippines a new species of Begonia, the Begonia Blancii. His first major project of a vertical garden was completed in 1986 at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris, but his idea did not arise much interest until 1994, when it started becoming an hot topic among gardening professionals; yet it was not until 2004 that it spread beyond specialists to reach a wider audience. The original idea of Blanc was "to have nature coming back in towns" and to do so he took inspiration from both tropical rainforests and high mountain environments, where many plants grow without or with a minimal amount of soil.

With his flowing, emerald locks, his signature green-and-khaki shirt and his love of jade jewellery, Patrick Blanc resembles one of the exotic plants in the vertical gardens he is famous for. It is not hard to see why the French botanist is called „The Green Man“ by his friend and regular collaborator, architect Jean Nouvel.