

Outside edge: a green living space in Paris

Plant-covered walls, pressed ferns and a wraparound terrace put nature at the heart of this 1930s home in the French capital

Leafy greenery breathes life into all the rooms of Alexa Funès's 1930s house in the Paris suburb of Issy-les-Moulineaux. "We have nature everywhere," she says, talking from her home office where, behind her, the tendrils of a living wall steadily creep skywards. Downstairs, a dining room extension has been designed so that there's a strong connection with the terrace that wraps around the house. Even the bathroom has a tropical feel, opening on to a balcony hung with ferns and a holiday-mood hammock.

Alexa lives here with her husband, Albin, and their sons who are aged eight and 10, and has continued the verdant theme in the living room, where real plants mix with framed herbaria - giant leaves that have been dried, pressed and framed between two layers of glass.

Alexa freely admits she has a thing for tropical gardens and greenhouses and, before travel restrictions, she loved visiting historic gardens. Her favourites include [La Bambouseraie](#) in Cévennes, the [Exotic Garden](#) in Monaco and the [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden](#) in Miami. Closer to home, [Serres d'Auteuil](#) in Paris now keeps her botanical levels topped up: "These places are a vivid reminder of the beauty of nature and its effect on us," she says.