LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Providing an understanding of the potential and benefits of green walls
• Addressing issues of the urban environment and the opportunities to enhance biodiversity, reduce "heat island" effect, off-set the effects of global climate change and contribute to the visual, aesthetic and sensory experience of place
• Addressing specific technical, site design and planting challenges
• Expanding knowledge about the vertical gardens that have successfully been built in different environments around the world
• Patrick Blanc’s contribution to the art and technique of creating sustainable vertical gardens
• Dispelling the conventional wisdom about what constitutes a "green wall"

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Background and Education in Botany
2. Early History and Interest in the Design of Vertical Gardens
3. Experience in Cliff Environments and Plant Adaptations
4. Discoveries and Adventures in Botany
5. Research and Development of Ideas
6. Implemented Projects around the World
7. Projects Currently Underway
8. Future Opportunities
PRESENTER BIOS

Bonnie Fisher, FASLA, ROMA Design Group. Bonnie is a landscape architect and urban designer, who has worked on the planning and design of many significant public space projects in cities throughout the US and abroad. Bonnie and Patrick recently collaborated on the award winning vertical garden for Drew School in San Francisco.

Patrick Blanc is a one-of-a-kind botanist, who, with creativity and technical skill creates extraordinary vertical landscapes. His genius lies in a vast knowledge of individual plant species and how they can fit within a very challenging urban landscape into a green tapestry of great aesthetic power. Trained as a botanist, Blanc is a research scientist and scholar who has perfected the self-sustaining vertical garden, that brings biodiversity and visual interest to the most hard-surfaced urban areas.

Patrick Blanc has pursued an enthusiastic interest in the natural world since earliest childhood, first developing aquarium systems and then focusing on plants themselves. He has studied the growing environments of plants throughout the world and, in particular, looking closely at what plants grow and can grown in vertical settings. He has created vertical gardens that are as old as twenty years, and has demonstrated to the world the opportunity of introducing another dimension into the life of cities.

Patrick is the author of Etre Plante à l’Ombre des Forêts Tropicales (Being a Plant in the Shade of Tropical Rainforests) which is the first book (in any language) to address adaptive strategies of plants growing in the shade of tropical rainforests and receiving only 1% of the light reaching the top of the forest canopy. Many of these plant species are growing without soil in the rainforest understories in habitats such as rocks and boulders covered with mosses, slopes along rivers, limestone cliffs, tree trunks and branches for climbing and epiphytic species. He is also author of the book, Le Bonheur d’être Plante, the story of low energy demand plants in the world of high demanding living organisms.