



CAMPBELL SOUP EDIBLE CROP WALL

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Last month we learned about Vertical Gardens and how they can be an efficient way to clean our environment, provide beauty, and produce food crops for us. This month I will be writing about a collaboration between the Campbell's Soup Company, Green Living Technologies, and Urban Farming Inc., known as Urban Farming Food Chain. This project provides an opportunity to change the paradigm on how we produce crops.

The Food Chain is a gardening system that offers immediate access to fresh produce, cleans the environment, creates team-building and skills-training, and provides an opportunity for community service and involvement. It also lowers the heat index in areas where concrete and steel are plentiful and ground space and greenery are scarce.

Campbell's Soup provided specially cultivated seeds to grow tomatoes for the Living Wall. Green Living Technologies provided the Green Living Wall System.

In April 2009, a living vertical fruit and vegetable garden was installed on an apartment complex in the middle of Harlem in New York. The apartment complex serves as a transitional living facility for rehabilitating formerly homeless people back into society.



The project was to install the vertical garden, which was pre-planted with tomatoes, leeks, cucumbers, strawberries, etc., on a concrete wall that typically was covered with graffiti; and then rely on Master Gardeners to work with the tenants and a local garden club to maintain the garden. The panels grow fresh produce without the use of pesticides. It quickly turned into an educational opportunity for the tenants, with several of the tenants taking a leadership role in the installation and an excitement in maintaining the garden.



The living wall brought an entire community together developing a strong bond between the wall and the people involved.

As a note: Urban Farming is an international non-profit organization that plants food on unused land and space such as rooftops, walls, in planters at malls, sidewalk cafes and school campuses to help eradicate hunger by establishing an abundance of healthy food for people in need while greening the environment, educating youth, adults and seniors and providing a sustainable system to uplift communities. Urban Farming is now in 14 cities and five countries including Jamaica, Canada and England and offers educational opportunities in nutrition, environmental justice and entrepreneurship.