



## Concept

In the century-and-a-half since Charles Barnard first converted textile weaving machines in his Norwich, England factory to weave stiff wire fencing, chain link has become a ubiquitous feature of the urban landscape. Lacy wire barriers carve up city blocks, delineate public and private realms, and channel informal pedestrian traffic flows. As a utilitarian solution for space demarcation, chain link has a brilliantly minimalist and efficient design. However, its ubiquity and its status as the cheapest means of controlling access and dividing urban space has given chain link connotations of coldness and brutality.

This proposal offers an enrichment of chain link fence. Using off-the-shelf materials and salvaged products, deFence deepens the fence plane to host a living wall. Standard chain link fence fabric provides a skeletal framework of 2" diamond-shaped cells, creating a mesh that can take on any number of dimensions and profiles. By cutting 8" lengths of angled PVC pipe, notching each center point and then threading pipe sections through the fence, each open fence cell becomes activated with a small planting vessel. This pipe then gets loaded with a stopper, soil, and a tough urban-dwelling plant. This modular, scalable vertical gardening strategy is infinitely replicable, creating productive greenspace and empowering individuals to seize the potential of an otherwise deadening urban surface.

## Process

We design by brainstorming: what if?!...

A fence could become a garden?

A wall could map a movement?

What would it look like?

How could it work?

Through material exploration--- stretching panty hose, cutting tennis balls, wrapping duct tape---- we have finalized this simple and utilitarian PVC planting unit. Testing has already incorporated various planting strategies, angle cuts, drip edges, planting matter and pipe sizes.

For now, the form of the chain link structure is less important to us than the cellular nature of the grid itself, as this planting strategy works regardless of the angle or dimensions of the fence. We thus have the latitude to create a sculptural form that responds to a specific site and to our intentions regarding the experiential qualities of the space.

**Make your own deFence:**

1. Cut angled lengths of 2" PVC pipe (including a notch at the center of each pipe)
2. Thread a stopper screw through the bottom
3. Drop in a wadded-up plastic grocery bag
4. Fill the tube with soil
5. Plant a hardy seed or start in each cell
6. Place the pipe container in a cell in the chain link fence