

The Plant Whisperer

Fem Güçlütürk
Istanbul, Turkey

In a cramped, terraced apartment in the Beşiktaş district of Istanbul, Fem Güçlütürk can almost certainly be found watering her plants. Over the years, the plant enthusiast has collected over 1,000 specimens, making her the guest in a home overgrown with wildlife



It was during a trip to Copenhagen that Fem was reintroduced to nature. She and a friend rented a small house that belonged to an artist, charmingly characterized by triangular windows and a low glow of light. Here, the presence of plants awakened a clarity that would inspire the next chapter of her life, one with a bit more clutter than anticipated.

For 12 years Fem was a partner at a brand consulting firm. Moving to the city came with many good things, but also a gradual retreat from the natural world, a connection she soon realized ran deep in her blood.

"As Anatolians we believe that animals and plants have a deep soul. The ability to communicate with plants has been passed down from our ancestors, who lived in direct relationship to the land. It is in our bones," Fem explains. In a turn of fate, the home she bought belonged to a ceramic artist, who left a collection of pots, endemic shrubs, and trees in her care. "My future and destiny came with a sales contract," Fem recalls.

A home with a terrace soon became a non-negotiable. A collection of 20 plants quickly multiplied into hundreds, as did her collection of books on horticulture—

