NUVO*

20 years

DAPPER DAN

Harlem's Legendary
Tailor Goes Gucci

Waste Not, Want Not

High tech tackles the problem of food waste.

That thing in the back of your refrigerator is growing. Whatever it was—the takeout you didn't finish, the mashed potatoes from Sunday dinner three weeks ago—it's something different now. Better throw it out before it takes over the entire fridge.

Collectively, Canadians throw out about 170 kilograms of food per person every year. Not only does this represent about $1,450 of our annual household grocery bills, it wastes increasingly finite resources (land, water, fertilizer, energy). And perhaps most importantly, it represents a major contribution to the warming of our planet in the form of carbon dioxide and methane emissions from landfills. In fact, if food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest emitter of CO_2 on the planet, behind the United States and China.

Over the past few years, most major cities globally have implemented food recycling and composting programs. Ultimately, however, it may be Silicon Valley that saves the day. From waste monitoring apps to smart packaging to new ways of harvesting bioenergy from old food, tech start-ups are focusing on solving the problem of food waste. San Francisco–based BluWrap is building a better shipping container, which has computer sensors that monitor and control oxygen and prevent spoilage. Vancouver start-up FoodMesh has created a food matchmaking system that connects businesses with extra food to charities and other non-profits that need it. Flashfood's app offers consumers in Vancouver and London, Ontario, the ability to buy deeply discounted produce and other food before retailers toss it in the trash.

All good news, to be sure. But these innovations do nothing to cure us of the underlying problem: the belief that we can simply throw away what doesn't tickle our taste buds. When 800 million of us worldwide don't have enough to eat, casually throwing away the takeout isn't simply a problem—it's a statement to those who are getting by on less than the recommended daily amount of calories. Worth remembering the next time you shuffle whatever-it-is to the back of the fridge. **James Dolan**

Vertical Forest Architecture

A wealth of green.

Imagine a city of office towers and condominiums covered in leafy saplings, aromatic herbs, and indigenous shrubs growing from balconies and filtering the surrounding air as their fronds reach further skyward each day. It may sound like a fantasy world, but for architect Stefano Boeri, this is much more than an architectural rendering—it is a feasible vision for the future.

In 2014, Studio Boeri completed Vertical Forest (pictured), a two-tower luxury residential project of urban biodiversity in Milan's affluent Porta Nuova business district. Seven years in the making, the visual effect of this "metropolitan reforestation" speaks for itself: a living, breathing façade of greenery that evolves over time as the foliage grows.

Expert horticulturalists were brought on board, and the final tally saw both towers planted with 700 trees, 5,000 shrubs, and 15,000 perennials, which play host to 20 bird species and myriad pollinator insects. Plants are watered by specially designed control systems, and each balcony is reinforced with steel to support the weight of the growing greens. For maximum sustainability, solar panels and filtered waste water are used, and the energy efficiency of the building is maximized by the plants themselves: their shade cools interiors in the summer months, and they help to block wind in the winter. Aesthetics aside, the project also reduces air pollution by up to 20,000 kilograms of CO_2 per year.

Studio Boeri is not stopping with Italy; a smattering of cities throughout Europe and Asia are planning Vertical Forest projects unique to their own climates. Plans include a 125-unit social housing complex in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, and the largest feat yet—the Liuzhou Forest City in China, the world's first Vertical Forest City. While there is no estimated date for completion yet, there is hope that the city will one day house 30,000 residents and include schools, hospitals, hotels, and offices. As far as global urban planning goes, this may well signal a seismic shift toward a future of sustainable cities painted with a verdant, forest-green paintbrush. **Katie Nanton**