



The Aquitecture panel, designed by Shaakira Jassat | Photo source [Shaakira Jassat](#)

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WATER PANELS COULD HELP PREVENT URBAN DROUGHTS

  ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

An innovative panel has been designed to fit discreetly onto the walls of a building, collecting rainwater and pumping it into the water system

Spotted: The Aquitecture panel, designed by Shaakira Jassat, founder of [Studio Sway](#), is slim and made of durable and rust-resistant stainless steel. The rainwater is collected through thin, rounded funnels, and then channelled into the adjoining building's grey-water system, to be recycled alongside waste-water.

Jassat came up with the idea after a Cape Town drought, seeking to create an element that would be able to harvest and store water in an urban setting. Rainwater harvesting has been around for centuries but the form and shape are generally large and difficult to implement in a dense urban environment. Many South African city dwellers are therefore living in fear that their water taps will just switch off.

“The main goal was to create a water harvester that would fit in dense urban spheres through its compactness, visual identity and ability to integrate into architecture,” Jassat told [Dezeen.com](#). The Aquitecture panel is a potential solution, providing city residents with a space-efficient system of collecting rainwater.

Jassat has yet to test the design on a real building but says that in the future, there could be potential for the panels to pull water out of the atmosphere via condensation. She has also recently been researching the tillandsia and bromeliad plant species, “air plants”, which draw all their water needs from the air, and she herself has a strong interest in the concept of humans living symbiotically with nature.

Springwise has covered other innovations seeking to increase make water more accessible across the globe, including [these](#) low-energy condensers that could help during water shortages and emergencies, and [this](#) living wall in London, which will feature a rainwater collection system.

6th December 2019

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Takeaway:

As global temperatures continue to rise with unprecedented speed, the necessity of coming up with water provisions to fight drought, forest fires and other shortages, becomes even more paramount. The concept of recycling water is not new, but the means of doing this must become even more innovative, as even first-world countries begin to notice the effects of water shortage. The Aquatecture panels could represent a move in a direction that will merge architecture with sustainability and preservation, in order that some of humanity's most basic needs continue to be met.