



MATERIALS & APPLICATIONS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Earthen Comforts: Airing Earth

By Liz Gálvez / Office e.g.

**Location: M&A x Craft Contemporary
Courtyard, 5814 Wilshire Blvd, Los
Angeles, CA 90036**

Dates: May 31, 2026 - October 25, 2026



Earthen Comforts model, Office e.g., Courtesy of Office e.g.

LOS ANGELES — Materials & Applications (M&A) presents *Earthen Comforts: Airing Earth*, a courtyard installation led by Liz Gálvez (Office e.g.) that stages mass and fiber as shared infrastructures for collective comfort in the Los Angeles summer. Building on the

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Earthen thermal mass columns anchor the site, paired with a lightweight, woven canopy that modulates shade, air movement, and light. These systems are not novel inventions but re-imagined inheritances: stone or earthen blocks and woven shade have long functioned as elemental infrastructures across cultures and climates. Recast in the courtyard, they compose an experimental ecology that makes heat's stubborn but predictable movement legible. Visitors will encounter varied microclimates—cool, heavy earth; dappled woven shade; shifting breezes—that expand thermal design beyond mere survivability toward joy and collective participation in the face of intensifying heat.

“Contemporary design culture continues to privilege mechanical conditioning as the default mode of environmental control, often at great ecological cost,” says Gálvez. “*Earthen Comforts* reframes this paradigm by re-centering thermal design as an architectural and civic act, intervening in urgent debates around climate adaptation, material practice, and collective life.”

As an infrastructure, *Earthen Comforts* aims to become a site of experimentation into how we might inhabit heat differently. “M&A is thrilled to produce this project, which emerges from interdisciplinary collaboration between an architect and artist, building scientists, local material researchers, and students pursuing a collective ethos toward meeting our current crises,” shares M&A Director Kate Yeh Chiu.

Programming will extend beyond public fabrication and workshops to include a symposium on heat, material agency, and thermodynamic literacy. Together, these efforts foreground shared learning and experimental making as urgent design responses to increasing heat insecurity in cities.

The M&A x Craft Contemporary Courtyard is a partnership between Materials & Applications and Craft Contemporary. Each summer since 2021,

***Earthen Comforts* Summer Program & Workshop Dates**

Sunday, May 30
Sunday, June 28
Sunday, July 26
Sunday, August 30
Sunday, September 27
Sunday, October 25

Credits

Office e.g. & (Im)material Matters Lab,
UC Berkeley

Liz Gálvez

Ian Chu

Theint Lei

Lincoln Ruiz-Truong

Thermal Consultation

Salmaan Craig

Wood Assemblies Consultation

Paul Mayencourt (Berkeley Wood Lab)

Earthen Comforts: Airing Earth is generously supported by the Pasadena Art Alliance, the University of California, Berkeley, Arts Research Center (ARC), and the University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design. *Earthen Comforts* additionally received support from Nous Engineering.

A full list of M&A's sponsors can be found at www.materialsandapplications.org.

About the designer

Liz Gálvez is a registered architect and Assistant Professor of Architecture at UC Berkeley, where she directs the (Im)material Matters Lab. Her practice, Office e.g., investigates building technologies—historical and emerging—through environmental responsibility and material experimentation.

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desert cities. Her projects have been recognized with the Architectural League Prize, exhibited internationally, and supported by competitive grants.

Through both teaching and practice, she engages architecture as a civic and ecological enterprise, asking how material practices can address climate change while cultivating joy, participation, and collective care.

www.officeforexample.com

Instagram @office.e.g

About Materials & Applications

Materials & Applications (M&A) is a Los Angeles-based organization pursuing a public, participatory, and just culture of experimentation in architecture. With a focus on architectural ideas and processes, M&A curates critical exhibitions and commissions new work by under-recognized architects, designers, and artists. Our exhibitions give space to exceptional experiments across multiple disciplines while challenging the relationship between art, architecture, and public encounters. Through an annual calendar of programs, including hands-on workshops, performances, and conversations, we explore how art and architecture can transform underutilized spaces into unexpected encounters. Since 2002, M&A has produced more than 25 temporary site-specific installations and over 100 programs presenting new ideas in art, architecture, and design. Our installations are always free and open to the public.

M&A Executive Director and Curator

Kate Yeh Chiu

M&A Program Committee

Austin Merchant, Aviva Rubin, Emma Dexter, Etulan Joseph, Hilary Huckins-Weidner, Jola Idowu, Leana Scott, Michael Lagos, Saba Salekfard, Sara Suárez, Zoe Taleporos

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About Craft Contemporary

Founded as a museum in 1973, Craft Contemporary reveals the potential of craft to educate, captivate, provoke, and empower. With a focus on contemporary art made from craft media and processes, Craft Contemporary presents dynamic exhibitions by established and emerging artists and designers who are often underrepresented in larger art institutions. Craft Contemporary complements these exhibitions with a creative line-up of educational programs, including hands-on workshops led by professional artists. Craft Contemporary cultivates an environment for people in Los Angeles to deepen their relationship to art, creativity, and one another.

Location: 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036

Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 11:00am to 5:00pm

First Thursdays: 12:00pm - 8:00pm

Sundays: Pay what you wish

General admission: \$9 for adults; \$7 for students, teachers, seniors; free for Craft Contemporary members and children under 12

* M&A's installations in the courtyard are always free and open to the public.

www.craftcontemporary.org
Instagram @craftcontemporary

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