

## MATERIAL MATTERS 2025 UNVEILS INSPIRING TALKS PROGRAMME AND KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Material Matters London 2025 announces an eclectic programme of talks showcasing the remarkable stories of its exhibitors. Taking place at Space House in London’s West End from 17–20 September as part of the London Design Festival, the fair will bring together established brands and emerging designers to explore the future of materials and design.

### Talks Programme

Talk highlights include author and curator Seetal Solanki in conversation with journalist and editor Amy Frearson; Kevin Rouff, co-founder of **Studio ThusThat**; and designer-maker Sebastian Cox. Solanki, who describes herself as a materials translator and has been at the forefront of material thinking since she launched her practice **Ma-tt-er** in 2015, begins the programme on Wednesday 17 September by providing an overview of the significance of materials.



The late-night programme on 17 September opens with the highly anticipated Negroni Talk, created by architecture practice **Fourth\_Space**. Born out of frustration with the mannerisms of traditional architectural debate, the talks are meant as a provocation – capturing the spirit of lively, opinion-driven exchanges from Fin de siècle European café culture. Now in its fourth edition at the fair, this year’s session focuses on the theme of ‘performance’. Despite increasing calls for adaptive reuse, a culture of demolition still prevails in the construction industry. With new-build often perceived as the easier option to meet increasingly demanding requirements, the debate raises a question: how can we genuinely enhance the performance of our built environment if we fail to address the inefficiencies and waste inherent in our existing building stock?

A session dedicated to wood will explore the psychological, educational and sensorial potentials of building with timber and integrating nature into our structures. Speakers include Lou Davies, co-founder of **BOX 9**; Edmund Fowles, founding director of **Feilden Fowles**; Rachel Elliott, associate director of **Lynch Architects**, and it will be chaired by Sebastian Cox.

Other topics being explored include: working with waste, designing with biomaterials, the rise of Polish design, why making is good for you, the joy of Nordic design, and a series of talks centred around the fair’s biggest installation, *In The Making 2.0*.



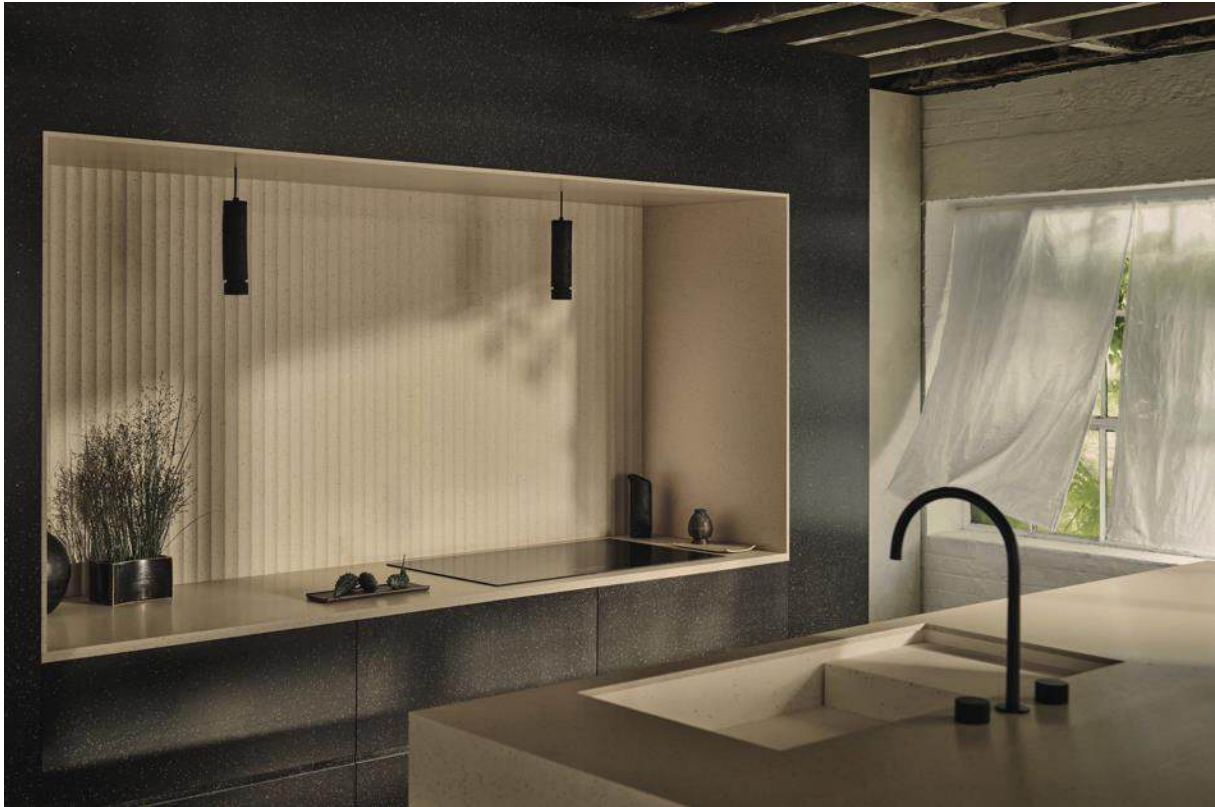
‘Material Matters started as a podcast in 2019, so discussing issues around design and architecture has long been part of its raison d’être. This year’s programme highlights just some of our exhibitors’ extraordinary stories. We feel very privileged to have them as part of our fair,’ say Material Matters co-founders William Knight and Grant Gibson.

### **In The Making 2.0**

Visitors are first welcomed to Space House by *In The Making 2.0*, an exhibition curated by leading design and architecture practice **tp bennett**, in collaboration with **Future Works**, the innovation partner of **The Furniture Practice**. The installation invites audiences to reflect on the environmental impact of design and explore how materials are evolving to shape a more sustainable future.

The showcase builds on the success of last year’s edition by highlighting the true cost of what we create, from raw material extraction to manufacturing, installation and maintenance. The exhibition is organised into three elemental zones: Land, Water and Atmosphere, reflecting the original environmentalist framework and providing a thematic perspective on material impact.

*In The Making 2.0* brings together nine leading manufacturing brands, including: **Arper**, **Alusid Mas**, **Domus**, **Kvadrat**, **Modus**, **Impact Acoustics**, **Akzonobel**, **Andreu World** and **Tarkett**.



### Exhibitor Highlights

**Low Carbon Industrial** (LCI) is a UK-based materials company founded in 2025. The company is the brainchild of Jake Solomon and Conor Taylor, who together identified a gap in the market for sustainable surface and material solutions. Its mission is to drastically reduce the carbon footprint of architectural materials without sacrificing performance, aesthetics, or practicality. LCI produces beautiful, thoughtful and honest low-carbon alternatives to the materials widely used by the industry.

During the fair, LCI's Elenite will be introduced as a material sponsor. The material will be featured at key touchpoints throughout the event, including the welcome desk, bar surfaces, tabletops and totems. Visitors can engage directly with the LCI team at Stand T9, where they can explore the stories behind Elenite, Foresso, and No-Chip, and interact with the raw materials firsthand, gaining insight into the journey from origin to finished products.

**The Material Matters Copenhagen edit** showcases some of the exhibitors involved in the acclaimed launch of Material Matters Copenhagen during 3daysofdesign in June 2025. Exhibitors include: **AHEC Europe, Hydro, Abalon, Jo Andersson and Spark & Bell.**

**crafting plastics! studio** unveils *Responsive Matter: Bioplastics Ready to Live With You* — a collection of projects that reimagine plastics not as wasteful, inert substances, but as responsive, living-like

companions for our interiors. The showcase brings together four works developed through years of interdisciplinary designers-led-research, each exploring how biomaterials can sense, adapt and communicate with their environment. From UV-reactive furniture that makes sunlight's intensity visible, to a foldable wall that reveals radiation, modular partitions that allow interiors to breathe, and a hydroponic column system that visualises soil health — these prototypes demonstrate that bioplastics are already ready for daily life. Durable yet biodegradable, aesthetic yet functional, they point toward a future where interiors are healthier, more transparent, and more alive.

**Making it Out (MIO)** supports people in moving on from homelessness, prison and chronic addiction, using making to improve their opportunities and well-being. It will showcase the Sussex S.E.E. Chair project, which involves creating a new regional furniture style – based on the original Sussex Chair by William Morris – to explore how regenerative resourcing and making can help generate benefits for society, the economy and the environment.

**Noti** is a Polish furniture brand rooted in craftsmanship and timeless design, creating versatile collections for residential and contract interiors. It will present three collections – Vivido, Cactus, and Ekori – each exploring a different material and approach to design.

**Norwegian Presence** will present Norwegian designers and brands who are finding innovative but responsible ways of producing furniture and products. The collective features leading brands from Norway including the likes of **Northern, Jensen Beds, Lundhs, Eikund** and **Norsk Dun**.

Other exhibitors to look out for include **Trouble Studio**, pioneering jewellery designer **Sofie Boons**, **Max Wills**, **LOVEHAPPY**, **Tabitha Bargh**, **VTT**, and Polish design collective **Małe Dobra**.

Register to attend Material Matters <https://registration.iceni-es.com/material-matters/reg-start.aspx>

### Notes to Editors

The Material Matters Fair runs from 17 - 20 September

#### Address:

Space House, 1 Kemble St, London WC2B 4AN

#### Image credit:

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Image 2: Courtesy Tabitha Bargh\_Photography by Veega Tankun

Image 3: Courtesy LOVEHAPPY



Image 4: Courtesy of crafting plastics! studio. Photography by Wellina

Image 5: Courtesy of Max Wills

Image 6: Courtesy of Low Carbon Industrial

### **About Material Matters**

Material Matters returns for its fourth edition from 17-20 September 2025 at a new venue, Space House – a striking Brutalist icon in central London.

Launched in 2022, the fair brings together over 50 established brands and emerging designers. The event is a must-see destination for architects and designers, showcasing the latest in material intelligence and the people, products and ideas shaping the future of design. Over the years, exhibitors have included AHEC Europe, Bisley, Corian®, Humanscale, Hydro, Layer and Woven Image, among many others.

Material Matters began as a podcast, hosted by former Blueprint and Crafts editor Grant Gibson, in 2019. Three years (and one global pandemic) later, he joined forces with William Knight, one-time director of 100% Design and Clerkenwell Design Week, to found a series of live events. This year, the duo launch their first international show during Copenhagen's 3daysofdesign, while, currently, they are plotting a new conference in partnership with the Bank of England.

As a highlight of the London Design Festival, Material Matters is more than a trade fair – it's a vital space for ideas, conversations, and collaborations around the materials that matter most.

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