

# Mycelium Workshops

## Recent collaborative workshops for the FAIRE! research project on the 26/27th March 2018

On March 26th and 27th 2018 ChartierDalix Architects held two experimental workshops in keeping with our current research project developed through the “FAIRE!” accelerator for urban projects.

We welcomed Maurizio Montalti, founder of Officina Corpuscoli, whose work investigates possible uses of “mycelium” in the fields of art and design. “Mycelium” refers to the fungus’ vegetative forms, a root system comprised of filaments producing cells through the decomposition of organic matter.

Varied creatives and designers are interested in this organic product, for the following reasons:

- Production of organic matter
- Possibility to guide and control this matter production
- Soil decontamination
- Interesting properties such as its lightweight, resilience or aesthetic aspect.

Since 2010, Officina Corpuscoli has been working along with scientists to develop mycelium based architectural products such as tiling or insulating panels.

<https://www.mogu.bio/project/mogu-home/>

<http://www.corpuscoli.com/projects/seameness/>



These workshops aim to observe mycelium's potential to enrich its environment, especially regarding the sustainability of green walls and their substrate.

The material we incorporated to the prototypes was laboratory-prepared by Maurizio. It is made up of two particularly interesting types of mycelium, TRAMETES MULTICOLOR and PLEUROTUS OSTREATUS. The fungi were bagged with wood dust and chaff on which they "fed", in order to anticipate their development for the purpose of the experiment. Potato starch and water were added to Maurizio's preparation to quicken the colonisation process.

We then applied this "paste" onto different selected surfaces:

- Block prototypes already provided with substrate
- Cardboard prototypes
- Fishnet prototypes

The prototypes were then protected from light for fifteen days (required time for the fungi to develop). They were then unwrapped, and we were able to observe the mycelium colonisation process on these different surfaces, and are now drawing conclusions for further research works about architecture and biodiversity.

