

MODULE 4 CHEAT SHEET

Key concepts and quick references from Materiality & Systems.

CORE MATERIALS

Concrete

Strong in compression, versatile, high thermal mass. Foundation, floors, walls.

Wood

Warm, renewable, easy to work. Framing, flooring, trim, finishes.

Steel

Strongest per unit weight, long spans. Beams, columns, connections.

Glass

Transparency, daylight, views. Windows, curtain walls, skylights.

Stone

Durable, timeless character. Cladding, counters, flooring, fireplaces.

Brick

Modular, excellent compression. Walls, veneers, paving, chimneys.

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

- Low-VOC paints, adhesives, and sealants
- FSC-certified or reclaimed wood
- Recycled-content materials (steel, glass, insulation)
- Locally sourced materials to reduce transport impact
- Life cycle thinking – durability over disposability

BUILDING SYSTEMS

Moisture Management

Barriers, flashing, drainage planes keep water out of the envelope.

Plumbing (DWV)

Supply, waste, and vent piping for kitchens, baths, and fixtures.

HVAC

Heating, ventilation, and cooling – forced air, radiant, or heat pumps.

Electrical

Power distribution, lighting circuits, outlets, and panels.

Fire Protection

Smoke detection, fire-rated assemblies, sprinklers in some codes.

BUDGET TIP

Splurge Where It Counts

Invest in high-impact areas (kitchen, master bath, entry). Economize on background spaces (secondary bedrooms, utility areas).

FINISHING CHECKLIST

- Material transitions planned at every junction
- Reveal details specified where materials meet
- Hardware selections match overall design intent
- Interior and exterior palettes feel cohesive
- Concept board completed with 5+ materials and systems