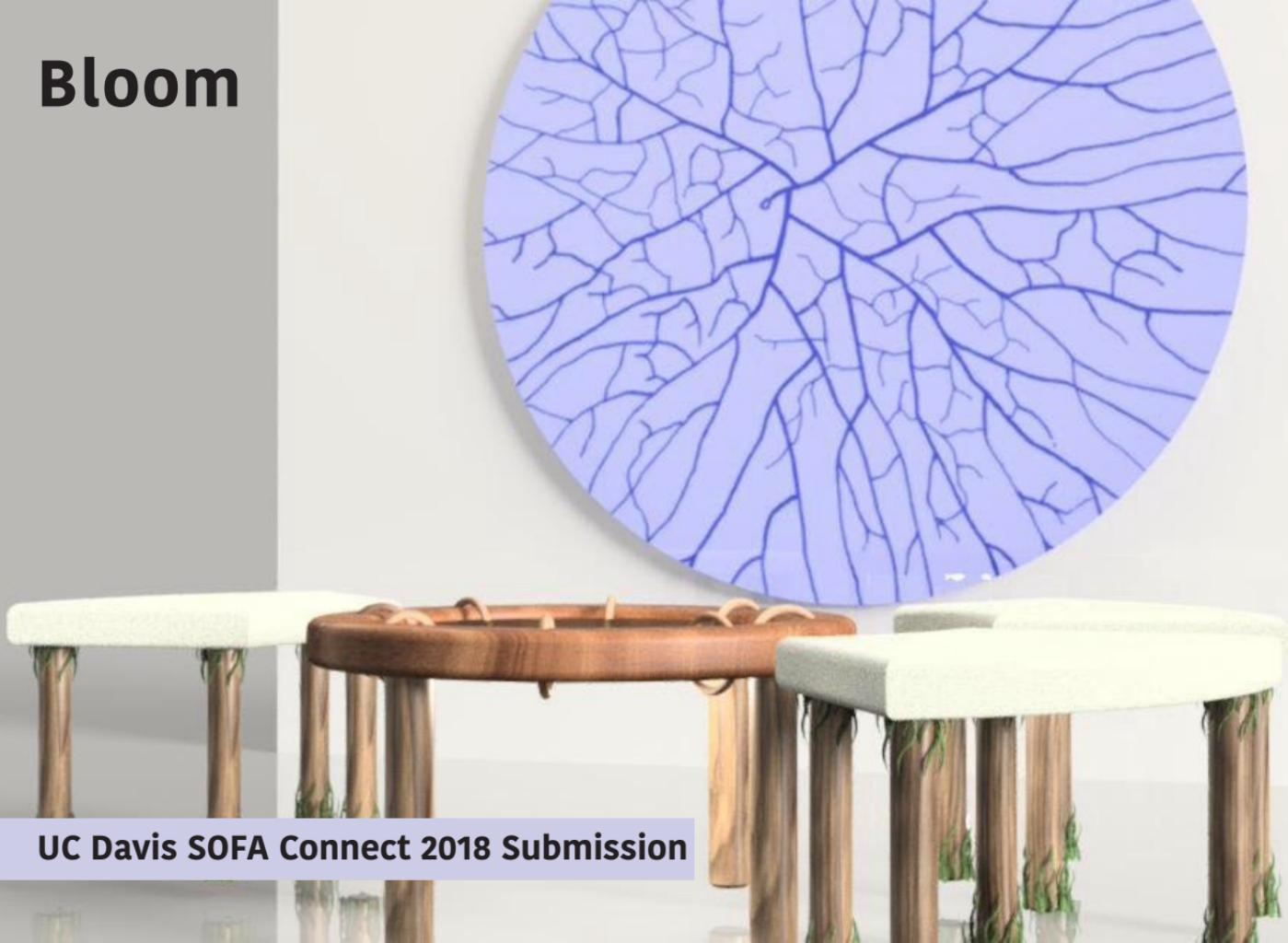


# Bloom

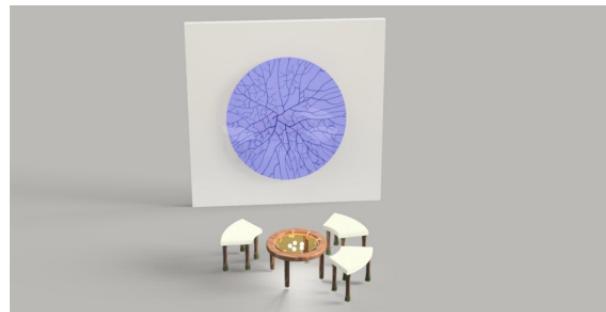


UC Davis SOFA Connect 2018 Submission

## A Biodegradable Space for Everyday Life

What does everyday life look like when everything is engineered and grown from nature? Welcome to the future world of biodesign—a desirable lifestyle designed with the logic of biology. Instead of chemically or mechanically manufacture commodities, we grow and mold biodegradable materials into everyday necessities. Products don't have life spans, but life cycles. Just imagine decomposing your old lamp in the backyard, or growing leather in your bathtub. Everything comes from and goes back to Mother Nature. We want to connect with the audiences through conversations about the revolutionary way to live a consumer life with the least amount of landfill waste, and at the same time exhibit UC Davis's unique biodesign research. As participants in today's consumer society nearly all of us participate in cycles of consumption and disposal without much thought to the lifecycle and disposal of everyday objects.

Our installation tackles this challenge by changing the objects rather than the human behavior at the root of this issue. And we're uniquely poised to do this. The University of California, Davis is #3 in the world for campus sustainability, and is widely recognized for its sustainable practices and agriculture. As students and designers, we aim to push for a sustainable everyday life. Our understanding of design and biomaterials positions us to create real ways that sustainable materials can offer a functional, desireable, and biodegradable alternative to everyday life.



## Our Installation:

We are going to display a comfortable lounge space created with biodegradable materials. The audience should feel as though they have just stepped foot into an everyday space, in order to prove that the sustainable future of design is feasible, and they are living in it. When people sit down in the chair, they will feel as though they are taking part in a natural cycle. The audience will be encouraged to rethink the possibility of sustainability in everyday settings. Our biodesign program at UC Davis provides students with the opportunity to work with and research innovative materials.

Researchers in Biodesign at UC Davis have realized the power of mycelium, and its amazing capability to be a sustainable alternative to plastic, brick, and even cloth. Mycelium are the root-like strings that extend from underneath mushrooms. They have the ability to wrap their tendrils around small particles of agricultural waste to form a material that is stronger than brick, grows faster than leather, and leaves a zero carbon footprint. It completes its life cycle without doing any damage to the planet. We will be featuring mycelium grown by us at UC Davis within our furniture design in order to display its potential within the future of design.



Mycelium growing in a petri dish

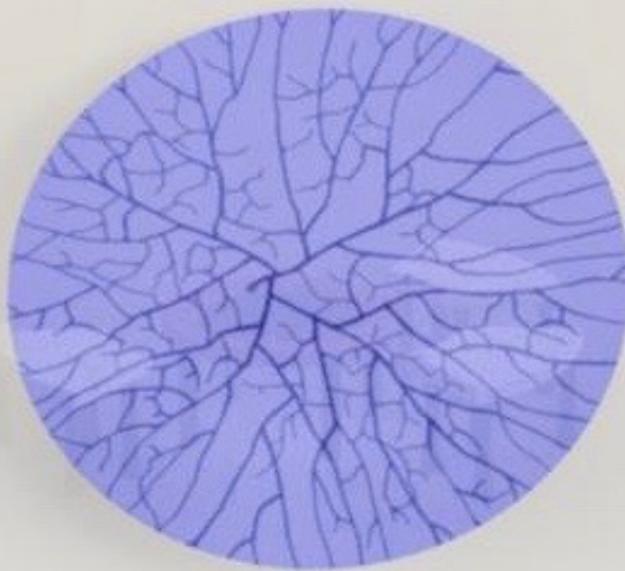
# Furniture

## Chairs

Through our modular furniture pieces, we would like to demonstrate the life cycle of biodegradable products. Three chairs will take on natural forms that fit together to allow the audience to feel our connection with these organic materials. This is done to demonstrate the ability to create a comfortable, appealing place, with biodegradable materials to create a sustainable now. The base of the chairs have mycelium shaped into roots, seemingly growing up the legs. That helps people understand that furniture does not have to be something that eventually harms nature, but can rather be integrated into the natural lifecycle. With three chairs constructed from mycelium and wood, we symbolize the journey of mycelium: starting as a mushroom, becoming a buildable material, and returning to the earth. We will connect the life cycle of mycelium with the life cycle of everyday objects.



## Projection



Alongside this lifecycle, we will display the process of creating structures from mycelium through a projection on the wall. The projection will allow viewers to understand the process, rather than feeling a sustainable lifestyle is impossible for them to attain. It will be placed beneath the table, hidden from view.

## Table & Lighting



The table will be made from wood with kombucha leather suspended in the middle with hemp rope. The lighting structure will be created from wood and mycelium. It will be centered beneath the table, illuminating the kombucha. Light is often used as an metaphor for good, or right, or clean. In this case, the light is illuminating the biodegradable structures, displaying sustainability as a bright and possible future.



Kombucha leather being grown