Materials and Vegetation

- **High-albedo surfaces**: Use light-colored paving and wall finishes (high solar reflectance) on courtyard floors and walls to reduce heat absorption and mitigate local heat buildup
  {category: Materials and Vegetation, sub_category: High-Albedo Materials, climate_type: all, goal: Thermal Comfort}

- **Green cover**: Plant trees, shrubs and groundcover in courtyards to provide shade, evaporative cooling and improved air quality. Use native/drought-tolerant species to minimize water use.
  {category: Materials and Vegetation, sub_category: Vegetation Cover, climate_type: all, goal: Thermal Comfort & Biodiversity}

- **Water elements**: Integrate fountains, ponds or rain gardens in courtyards for evaporative cooling and aesthetic appeal. Shade these water bodies to increase effectiveness.
  {category: Materials and Vegetation, sub_category: Water Features, climate_type: all, goal: Thermal Comfort & Aesthetic}

- **Permeable paving**: Choose porous or permeable paving materials (e.g. gravel, pavers, green swales) to allow rain infiltration and reduce runoff, which also cools the surface.
  {category: Materials and Vegetation, sub_category: Permeable Surfaces, climate_type: all, goal: Water Management & Cooling}

- **Shade structures with vegetation**: Incorporate green pergolas, trellises covered with vines or planted living walls to create shaded courtyard zones that blend structure with nature.
  {category: Materials and Vegetation, sub_category: Shade Structures, climate_type: all, goal: Shading & Greenery}