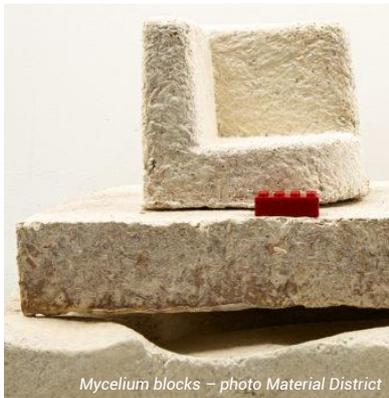


Want to contribute to a world with less plastic waste? Get to know mycelium!

*When a product is no longer functioning, we tend to just throw it away, thereby creating a lot of waste. Yet, in contrast to ordinary plastics, using renewable material in constructing consumables is one of the major challenges for a durable future. One of the most promising renewable materials at the moment is **mycelium** – you know, the fibrous thing from which mushrooms grow. To get people familiar with mycelium, and for what it can all be used for, we plan on organizing workshops. Not only do we want to make mycelium better known as a sustainable material, we also want to raise awareness of the public to the global problem of waste production and actively demonstrate how this biomaterial could be applied in our daily and future lives.*



But what makes mycelium better than bioplastics? Despite what most people think and what the name may suggest, bioplastics are often not compostable but only industrially biodegradable. Most of the time it is not even properly recycled. Our mycelium products can simply be composted. It does not add to the huge piles of waste we produce daily, which is detrimental for nature when it ends up in the environment. In contrast to bioplastics, our products do not harm nature in any way, it's the opposite, it actually nourishes the soil.

As a start-up, we would offer at least three different templates and each participant can choose one he/she will make with our instructions. The biggest experience is the learning process behind the mycelium tinkering. We will make sure that the value of mycelium is clear to the participants and show them the potentials of mycelium and its opportunities for the future. This message will be delivered in an interactive and fun way adapted to the age category of the group partaking in the workshop.

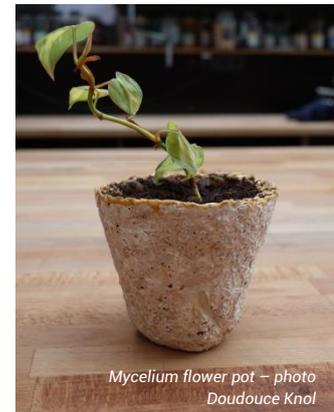




Mycelium candle holder – photo mykor

Our starter templates are a flowerpot, a candle holder and a jewelry box. The workshop itself will include the first steps of growing a mixture, namely boiling the substrate, weighing the right proportions and mixing the mycelium through it. After a growing period of a few weeks, the mycelium products will have to be baked in an oven for a few hours to inactivate the fungi and solidate the design. We predict that this concept will appeal to creative DIY'ers, ecologically/biologically-minded people and organizations with educational purposes. It's not just about mycelium, it's also about designing and being creative, while appreciating the nature and the use of products that can protect nature.

There is still a lot to be discovered about the ways that mycelium could be applied. In the end we hope to fit complex designs tailored to each customer. Mycelium designing is still a privilege for professionals and artists, but not for long. Our approach will lower the threshold for interested parties to start working with mycelium and think of their own ideas. We will make it accessible for everyone and we will properly inform the participant so they would actually know what they are doing. And perhaps one day mycelium would be as common as pottery. The aim of this workshop is that the qualities of mycelium will be spread around our community for the benefit of our planet.



Mycelium flower pot – photo Doudouce Knol

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