

# Earth to Table

Periscope  
Kirsty Badenoch  
James Hepper

22.02  
03.03

**‘Earth to Table’ explores a transitional approach to making with the landscape.**

**Embracing shifts between composition and decomposition; earth is collected, cast, dismantled and re-cast back into itself. The making process moves through material states from dug to stockpiled to sieved to compressed to viscous liquid to porous cast to vitrified shell. From positive to negative to positive again. Through a long, slow, and laborious manual process, the changing behaviours of soil lead the making of a perpetually degrading set of tableware.**

Working with soil borrowed from a construction site in Barking, East London, the bowls will contribute to a series of ecological supper clubs located on site over the coming years. Soil supports 95% global food production, thus we seek to engage with the full cycle of growth, consumption and exchange. Through eating directly from the earth that feeds our food, we bring together landscape, foot, mouth and hand. Through inviting soil to join us at the table, we connect environment with ecology with craft. And through the process of making, meeting and eating, we offer our gratitude to the land that sustains us. At the end of the dinners, the bowls will be crushed and given back to the site for invertebrates to occupy.

Like the bowls, the exhibition is conceived as a process, showcasing elements from the making process together with a working space in which the final pieces will be cast during the exhibition.

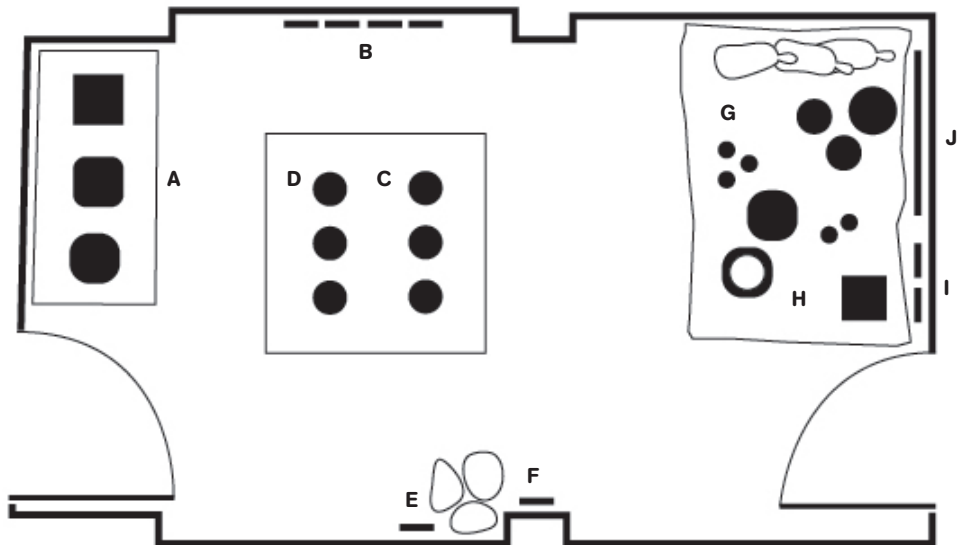
‘Earth to Table’ is part of Stockpile Garden, a landscape laboratory on one of the biggest construction sites in Europe. Exploring soil health and biodiversity on post-industrial sites, the garden brings together contemporary research, theory and practice in construction and ecology. The clay reclamation process is an extension of the Periscope Research project ‘Earthworks’ started in 2022.

Stockpile Garden is a collaboration between Periscope, Kirsty Badenoch, UCL Dept of Biochemical Engineering and The Bartlett School of Architecture; with support from Barking Riverside Limited and UCL Grand Challenges.

---

Microscope is Periscope’s investigative space for talking, thinking and testing natural processes, curated by Kirsty Badenoch in 2024.

**microscope**  
2-4 Tottenham Road, N1 4BZ  
rsvp@periscopestudio.co.uk



**A Cast earth moulds**  
Reclaimed earth from Barking Riverside, plaster, hemp, 240 x 240 x 180mm

**B Stockpile Garden books**  
001 The Project  
002 Stockpiles  
003 The Story Tables  
004 Earth to Table

**C Slip cast clay tablewear**  
Three bowl forms created by the degradation of the earth cast, Reclaimed clay from Barking Riverside, 150 x 200 x 180mm

**D The Story Table**  
Steel, patina from burial on Barking Riverside construction site, 1 x 1m

**E The Story Table burial photos**  
Site photos, Barking Riverside, June - July 2023, 170 x 100mm

**F Porcelain fragments**  
Slip-cast porcelain tests with reclaimed earth pigments, circa 80 x 120mm

**G Sandbags**  
Construction waste excavation material, 360 x 660 x 250mm

**H Slip casting workshop**  
Live working space comprising formworks, rammed earth moulds, live slip casting, buckets and tools 1500 x 2000mm

**I Stockpile construction photos**  
Site photos, Barking Riverside, June - July 2023, 170 x 100mm

**J Film**  
Site footage at Barking Riverside construction site and UCL Here East workshop, running time 5 mins

---

Bowls made by James Hepper with Alice Foxen, B-Made, UCL and Kirsty Badenoch. Tables made by Kirsty Badenoch with support from Robin Mather, B-Made, UCL.

Filming by Nicholas Bennett. Photography by Kirsty Badenoch, Nicholas Bennett, James Hepper and Daniel Rea.

periscope.uk @periscope\_uk  
kirstybadenoch.com @kirstybadenoch  
cellacollective.com @\_jhep