

HARVEST MOON

A table constructed from biomaterials and agricultural waste designed and fabricated by Charles Holland and Cat Rossi (UCA Canterbury) and Ben and Loretta Bosence (Local Works)

Working together, designers and landscape researchers Local Works Studio, architect Charles Holland and design historian Cat Rossi (both based at UCA Canterbury) have realised a table using materials harvested from a forty-mile radius of Canterbury in Kent, UK. The table, called HARVEST MOON, explores the use of biomaterials along with rituals of harvesting and gathering. The research aims to contribute to developments in regenerative design, place-based innovation, and the renewal of the local, the seasonal and the communal in contemporary architecture and design.

The table introduces a language of colour, decoration, hybridity and the ad hoc into biomaterial-based design. It draws on imagery associated with harvest festivals, folk objects, craft techniques and seasonal rituals and cycles. We understand that design today requires not just thinking about regenerative objects, materials and making approaches, but behaviours, activities, and ways of being too. The table is intended to be the centre of curated events called “harvest gatherings”: like raising a barn, the table is collectively assembled at each gathering, as part of a ceremony that explores what we gather, harvest and give thanks for today.

The table uses a mix of chalk, chestnut timbers and bark peelings, grubbed-up apple trees and waste products including bailing twine and pallet straps. The materials were generously donated by two local agricultural industries: Torry Hill Chestnut Fencing and Perry Court farm. Largely seen as waste materials, their availability reflects natural cycles of growing and harvesting as well as the economics of agriculture, political policy, climate change, and changing consumer tastes and habits.

For instance, Brexit has reduced the profitability of exporting apples, while changing tastes and cooking habits have made cooking varieties such as Bramley's no longer worth growing (we're baking less apple crumbles in the UK). At the same time, climate change is altering British agricultural crops with apricots and peaches now able to be grown outside in the UK for the first time.

The table reflects and grows out of these big and small changes to the landscape. The top, cast in eight pieces in chalk with chestnut paling aggregates, sits on eight legs constructed out of inverted apple tree

branches. These are propped where needed with chestnut palings and bound using multi-coloured baling twine and pallet straps; the latter also used in the cast tops. The table combines the natural and the artificial, recognising that rural industries and landscapes are themselves often synthetic and manufactured.

Funded via an internal UCA research grant, HARVEST MOON will travel to different venues where it will be re-assembled each time and used for gatherings of all kinds. The first of these gatherings was held at UCA Canterbury School of Art, Architecture and Design in June 2026. The celebration was accompanied by music by local musician and performance artist Anna Braithwaite, seasonal fruit and vegetables from Perry Court, heritage and regenerative beer and bread from local firm Docker Brewery and Bakery, and food research based on medieval female agriculture by UCA researcher Lucy Jones.

Following this the table will travel to Dover where it will be hosted by Dover Arts Development's in Dover's Urban Room. It is accompanied by a publication including instructions on how to host a harvest gathering, assembly instructions, and contextual essays on the research.

Location: Various

Description: Ritualistic Table

Design and Fabrication: Ben Bosence, Loretta Bosence, Charles Holland, Cat Rossi

Graphic Design: Ben Moore

Photography: Loretta Bosence

Speaking about the project, Cat Rossi said: *"HARVEST MOON is a design for both a table and a curatorial format. The table explores new approaches and languages for regenerative design. The gatherings are inspired by feminist and environmental curatorial approaches from art and design: they are designed to be ceremonies with music, food and drink to bring people together and enact communality and conviviality through assembling the table."*

Loretta Bosence, Local Works, said:

"The processes of designing and making the table together were rituals of a kind in themselves. How do we respond to the landscapes that surround us and make use of the residues of rural industry in a way that is not just pragmatic, but also playful and questioning? So many of the conventions of design and manufacture distance us from material origins and the consequences of consumption, through Harvest Moon we seek to reconnect."

Ben Bosence, Local Works, said:

At all stages of the design and fabrication, we collectively opted for the most honest and also playful solutions to creating this table. The material palette was minimised but still expresses both the mineral and bio-based materials of the region. The collective assembly and disassembly of the table using simple wooden tools, allows people to touch the raw materials, build the structure and hopefully feel part of a ceremonial harvest gathering.

Charles Holland added:

"This project is important in a number of ways: it clearly locates design within the complex realities of material production and supply, it responds positively to the challenges of climate change, and it recognises the importance of social ritual to the meaning of the objects that we make."

For more information about HARVEST MOON contact:

Loretta Bosence: loretta@localworksstudio.com

Ben Bosence: ben@localworksstudio.com

Charles Holland: Charles.Holland@uca.ac.uk

Cat Rossi: Cat.Rossi@uca.ac.uk

ENDS