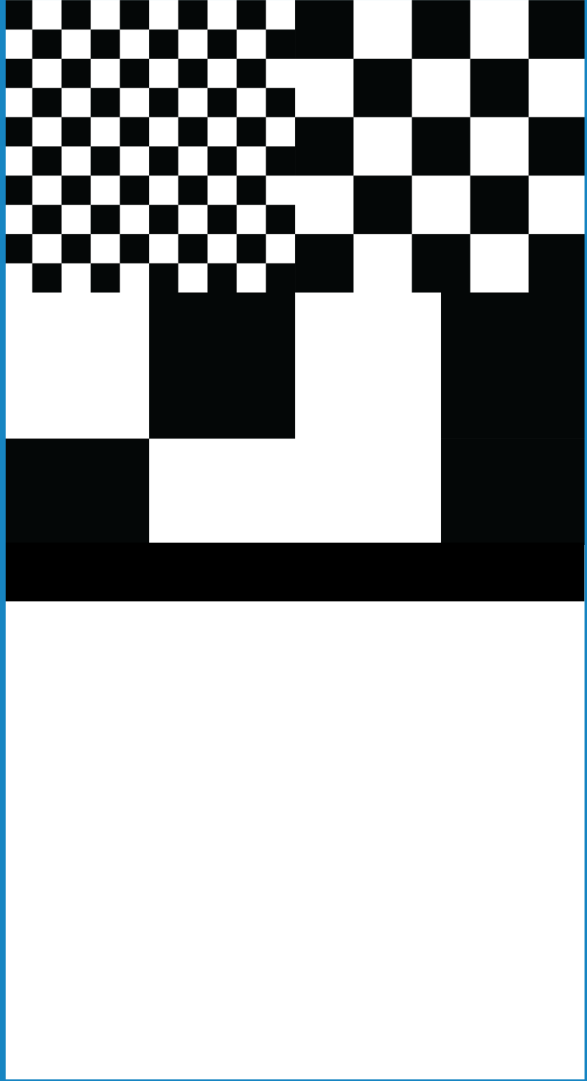
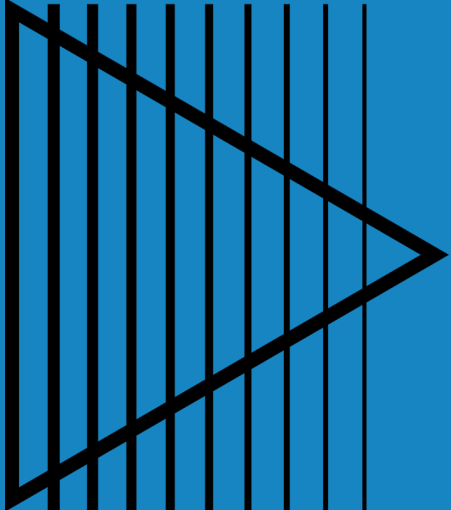
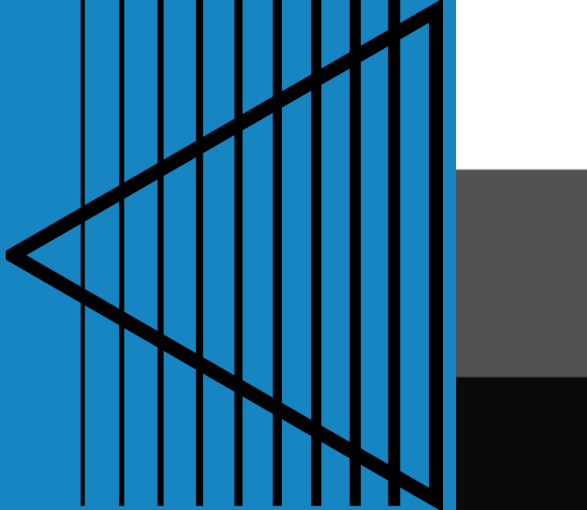
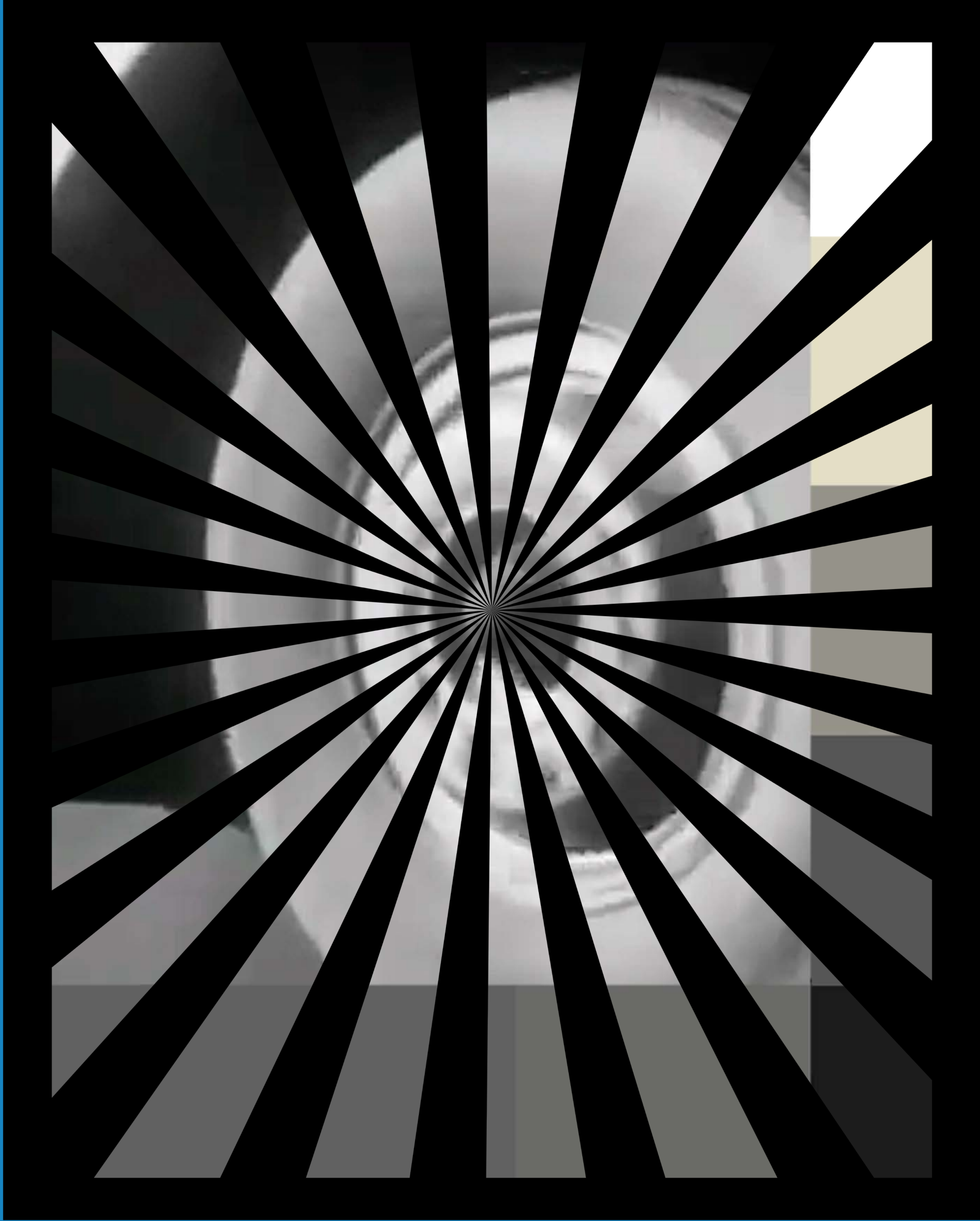
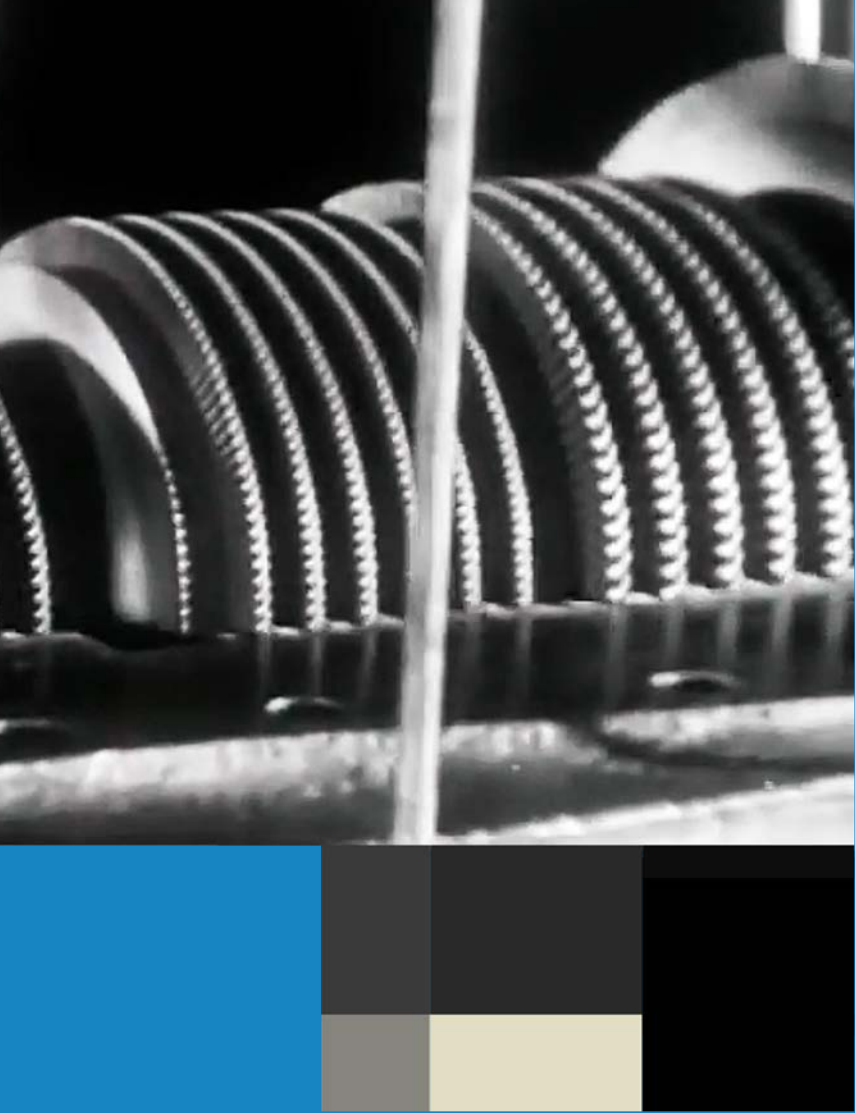
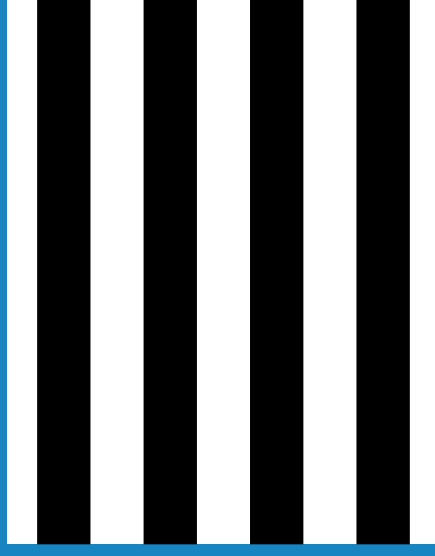
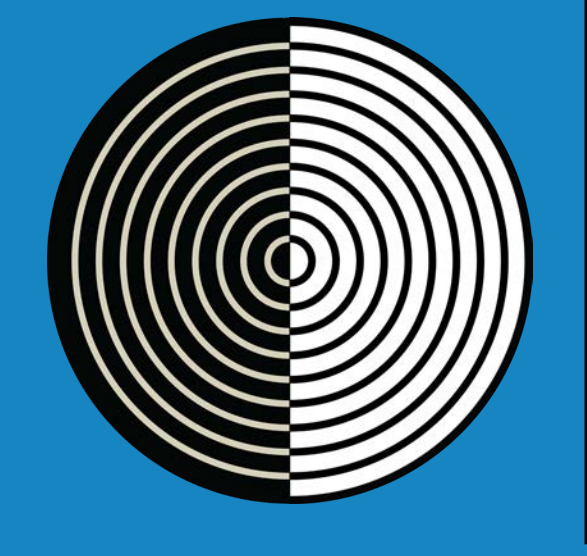
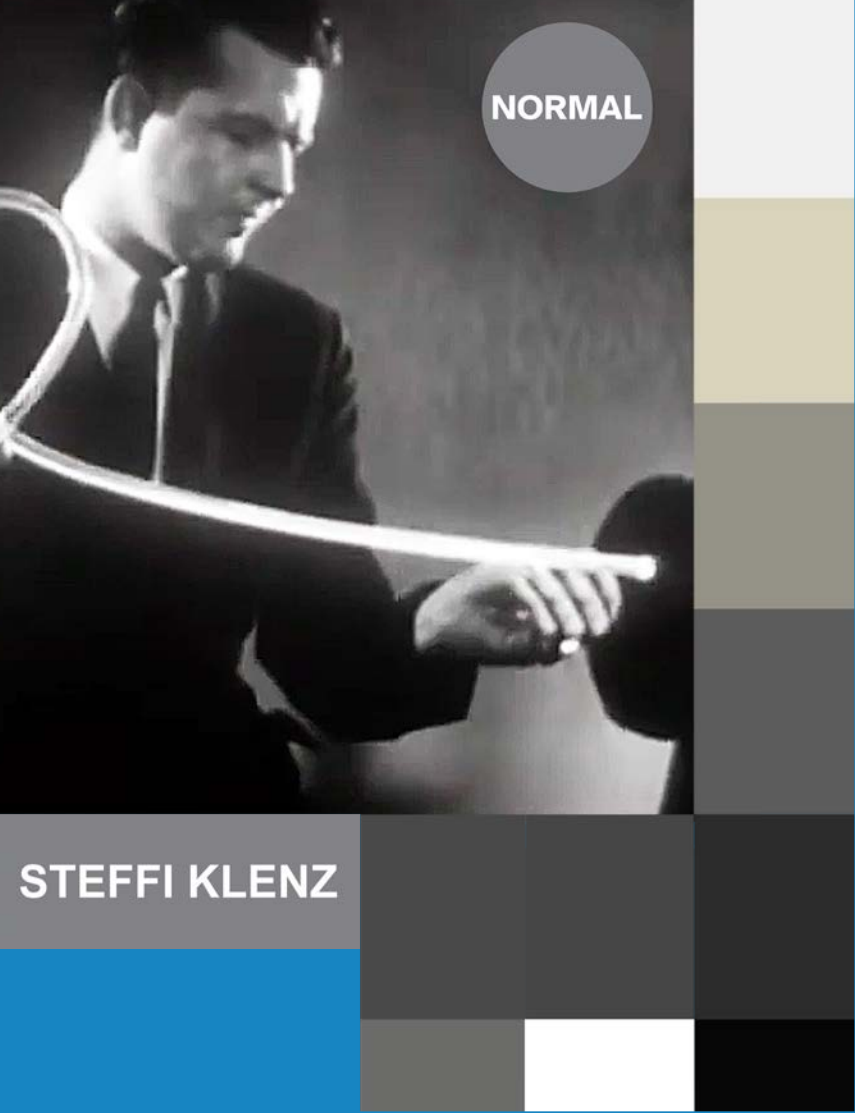




OIL FOR ALADDIN'S LAMP



HARVEST is a free programme organised by Cat Rossi, Charles Holland and Steffi Klenz from UCA Canterbury School of Architecture, Art and Design. Timed to celebrate the end of the Folkestone Triennial 2025 and the changing seasons, it looks at the reconnection with growing and harvesting materials, with resources and seasonality, and with the earth amongst architects, artists, and designers. What do we gather, collect, and give thanks for today? The programme includes a salon conversation and artworks tour scheduled for Harvest Sunday (5th October 2025), and a poster series.

Begin Again By Steffi Klenz

- A Agency refers to the capacity to act or to choose what action to take. It involves the ability to exert influence, shape outcomes, and participate in political processes. Agency is not a monolithic concept and manifests differently in various contexts, be they local communities, national politics, and global affairs.
- B Buildings consume a large amount of raw materials (around 40% of the world's total extracted materials) during construction and demolition, leading to the depletion of natural resources. Architecture and urban development contribute to and are shaped by extractive industries and practices. Our continual desire to build more and build bigger requires that we dig deeper. Petroleum, natural gas, sand, stone, and even water are repeatedly pillaged from lands and people – leaving ruination in place.
- C Crab Apple is one of the ancestors of the cultivated apple. There are two theories as to why crab apples are called as such. The first is that it's derived from the Scottish form scrab or scrabbe, a name possibly originated from the Norse word skrabba. The second is that it derives from the word crabbed, due to its inferior, sour taste. Crab apples can be foraged from August to October and make the most incredible, sunset-coloured crab apple jelly that literally glows, and which is delicious on bread or as an accompaniment to meat, particularly chicken.
- D D stands for displacement. Extraction legitimises the displacement of value from one part of the territory or economy to another. Settlement fixes population in space; it displaces or eliminates the people inhabited such spaces previously and discards their livelihoods. The extractive territory becomes a site of contestation inserted into often deeply unequal and unsettled social and spatial relations. Some regions are exploited for the benefit of others, leading to tremendous environmental and social inequalities.
- E Extraction is the process of removing or obtaining something, often from under a surface or from inside something else. Derived from the late 15th century Latin verb form extrahere, it means to “draw out” or ‘withdraw”, from ex “out, out of” + trahere “to draw”.
- F Foraging is the process of finding, harvesting, and using edible resources from the natural world. This includes plants like fruits, nuts, seeds, greens, and mushrooms, but also insects or small animals. Foraging has been a crucial part of human survival throughout history, representing a primary mode of subsistence for early human societies. Before the advent of organized agriculture, humans occupying a nomadic lifestyle, moved across the land in pursuit of animal herds and other seasonally available food sources. As plants and animals were domesticated, people began to settle in place to become farmers. In our modern world humans are no longer hunter-gatherers or farmers and most of us are unaware where our food comes from or how it is produced. We have become passive consumers, disconnected from the natural environment, its seasons and the processes that sustain us, resulting in deforestation, soil degradation, and water pollution that is affecting ecosystems worldwide. But foraging for food has never disappeared and, in the last couple years, has become very popular (even rather fashionable and commodified especially in urban areas) connecting people with nature, with being adventurous in the kitchen and offering a sustainable way to acquire seasonal food.
- G Greater plantain is often considered a weed that can grow almost everywhere. The name comes from the Latin plantago, which itself comes from planta, referring to the foot-shaped leaves. This rosette-shaped plant can be found in fields, lawns, roadsides, waste ground, parks and disturbed ground. While edible, its broad and oval leaves are quite tough and so better when blanched and sautéed with butter.

- H Harvest is an increasingly vital question for architecture and design. In the face of the climate emergency, embracing issues of seasonality and renewable bio-based materials is a way to wean ourselves off globally sourced products and destructive extraction processes. A growing number of architects and designers are adopting a harvest ethos; be it coppicing trees for furniture production, working with self-grown crops, cultivating plants for natural dyes, gathering waste materials from urban construction sites, or creating buildings that work with seasonal changes rather than against them. Designing and making seasonally also means thinking critically about where materials come from, who works the land, and how, where, and when they do so.
- I I stands for information and data harvesting. Previously private everyday life is being 'datafied' and extracted like natural resources have been; a process identified as 'data colonialism'. This process can be understood as a new, distinctive form of colonialism because it normalizes the exploitation of people via information extraction and data appropriation, just as colonialism appropriated territory, people, and natural resources. Today's new 'data colonialism' exploits individual and collective life through extracting value from data. Information or data harvesting has caused wide-spread concerns, blurring the boundaries between private and public identities, transparency, accountability, and the potential for misuse and manipulation for political and capitalist interests.
- J J stands for joy. The completion of harvesting marks the end of the growing season, or the growing cycle for a particular crop. The importance of this event makes it the focus of seasonal celebrations such as the harvest festivals found in many cultures and religions. Traditionally held in September or October and associated with a sense of shared joy, harvest festivals were a celebration of food, hard work, and rural ways of life.
- K K stands for kelp. Seaweed has been used for centuries to thatch roofs, particularly in coastal regions, offering excellent insulation and weather protection. Ancient Greeks used it for wall insulation, creating sun-dried clay bricks or wooden frames which would be filled with seaweed and covered with clay or plaster. The traditional Japanese shikkui is a lime plaster made with hydrated lime, hemp fibre, and seaweed glue. Kelp refers to over 100 species of large, brown seaweed that thrive in cold, nutrient-rich waters and is emerging as a promising, sustainable building material due to its natural fire resistance, insulation properties, and potential for creating buoyant brick structures. Unlike a number of conventional building materials, kelp is non-toxic, and its tightly packed cellular makeup means it is also fireproof.
- L L stands for labour. From fertile fields to supermarket shelves, the UK's agriculture sector forms the backbone of our food system. It encompasses diverse activities, like crop cultivation and livestock rearing, connecting countless individuals and businesses across various sectors. To meet seasonal demands, the UK has historically relied on foreign workers, particularly during peak summer workloads. Labour shortages have become an ever-greater concern following Brexit, which has created a situation of 'hyper-precarity' with escalating risks of forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking. People who migrate for agricultural work, do so with the promise of real wages and opportunities unavailable in the countries they depart from. Migration can come at great cost to those seeking work, with many taking out loans to pay unscrupulous recruiters, who promise debts can be repaid through better income and opportunities abroad. Migrant workers can find themselves under-paid, working in poor conditions, and being housed in remote locations with inadequate facilities, creating a sense of isolation and vulnerability. An estimated 122,000 people are victims of modern slavery in the UK, and the agriculture and farming sector has consistently ranked in the top five sectors for labour exploitation for the past four years.
- M M stands for materials. Plant-based materials such as kelp or hemp in its raw state or algae and mycelium mixed with other materials can become useful building materials. These plant-based materials are becoming increasingly popular among designers and architects due to their environmental performance.

- N N stands for neglectful. The global mining industry is enjoying an unprecedented boom period, with many companies posting record profits as a result of soaring commodity prices. Many developing countries, on the other hand, have experienced the negative sides of mining. Neglectful practices in mineral extraction, particularly concerning worker protection is widespread, and can have severe consequences in relation to occupational health and safety. These practices often involve inadequate regulations, weak enforcement, and a focus on short-term profits over long-term sustainability, leading to human rights violations, and social conflict.
- O Oil is a significant element in our interconnected globalized world and a significant factor in global politics. Oil influences domestic politics, economic conditions, and international collaborations. It is the largest single commodity in international trade, both in value and in weight and plays a crucial role in the economies and foreign policies of many nations. As the engine of modern economies and industries, governments across the world want to assure steady supply. It is an enormous source of wealth for those who sell it, allowing oil-rich nations such as Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, UAE and Kuwait to wield considerable economic influence, shaping trade relationships and international alliances. Oil-importing nations rely on secure and affordable supplies, influencing their foreign policy decisions and relationships with oil-producing countries. Control over oil reserves and pipelines has become one of the most strategic objectives for nations, leading to competition and political conflicts and military interventions such as in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, tensions around international waterways of the Persian Gulf and the South China Sea, and use of sanctions or political interference related to petroleum trade in Iran, Russia, Venezuela. Oil releases a huge amount of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, when burned - approximately a third of the world's total carbon emissions. Greenhouse gases trap heat in our atmosphere, causing global warming. Already the average global temperature has increased by 1C, and global temperatures passed the critical 1.5C milestone for the first time in 2024. Warming above 1.5°C risks further sea level rise, extreme weather, biodiversity loss and species extinction, as well as food scarcity, worsening health and poverty for millions of people worldwide. Oil spills such as the 2025 Kerala oil spill, the 2025 major oil slick spreading across the Kerch Strait that separates Russia from annexed Crimea, the 2022 Callao of the Peruvian coastline, the 2021 Mediterranean oil spill impacting the coastline of Israel and Lebanon, the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Arabian Sea have had further devastating impacts on our ocean's ecosystem.
- P Poverty is a powerful tool for maintaining a certain level of labour flexibility and availability for resource extraction particularly in the mining industry. In countries such as Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Colombia, Ghana and the Philippines workers have been paid “slave wages”, allowing employers and major international corporations to maximise profit by keeping local wages as low as possible. The phenomenon of a “resource curse” is commonly observed in these countries, where abundant natural resources, instead of leading to prosperity, are linked to higher poverty rates and lower living standards: the more a less developed country depends on mineral exploitation, the slower the growth rate of average local incomes.
- Q Quartz crystals form within magma, deep under the Earth's surface. As the magma cools, different minerals crystallize into solid rock form and quartz is one of the strongest minerals to form. Quartz crystals are used in computers, phones, data centres and information networks allowing us to function and rely on those connected objects and systems. Smartphones and other devices have become so central to modern life that most people rely on them for communication, entertainment, money management, social media, GPS directions or to access to information, with the average person spending more than 40 percent of their waking life connected to their smartphone.
- R R stands for rupturing standards of accepted knowledge and established norms. To rupture attracts the curious mind to find out how to build a house out of rammed earth or make a nettle soup.
- S Settlements and architecture require numerous resources such as limestone, clays, iron, aluminium, as well as processed minerals in the form of aggregates such as crushed stone, sand, gravel, and cement in the materialisation of their space-making processes. Correlating architectural skyscrapers with the subsurface field of depleted resources reveals a relationship between the depths of raw material extraction and the increasing height of tall buildings. The deeper they dug, the higher they built.

- T T stands for the Thames Estuary, where the River Thames meets the North Sea. Part of Britain's major international shipping route, it was the entry and exit point for ships carrying resources, products and people from and to Britain's colonies, making it a vital part of the British Empire's infrastructure during the 17th and 18th centuries. It was the launching place of England's great ships of exploration and colonization, an important and crucial place where the ambitions and realities of British colonialism unfolded, leaving a lasting impact on both Britain and the territories it controlled.
- U U stands for underneath or underground. Drawing what is beneath the surface reveals the unseen despoliation of the Earth in the pursuit of extraction and settlement. Although such resources are central to the urbanisation of the surface, the prevalent citycentric framing of urbanism relies on the erasure of the underground, which is out of sight and external to urban representation. The underground becomes thus the perfect lens to 'ground' an Anthropocene geopolitics, understood as the politics of earth itself.
- V Vitality draws its etymological roots from the Latin word vītālis which means pertaining to life or lively, and is itself is related to the word vīta, meaning life. In ancient Roman thought, vītālis encompassed the essence of life itself by maintaining a robust physical and mental health as well as embodying the concepts of liveliness, and an enduring enthusiasm for life's challenges and joys. The Roman goddess Carna reflected these ideas, bringing strength and health to the body by protecting the vital organs such as lungs, liver and heart. Believed to be able to convert food into physical health and strength, a festival was dedicated to her, celebrated on June 1st, where beans and bacon were offered in thanks.
- W Wild raspberries have a sharper flavour than their cultivated cousins available in shops and lend themselves well to sorbets in particular. The young leaves of raspberry plants can be dried made into herbal teas with a similar in taste to black tea. The tea traditionally used for their medicinal properties containing vitamin C and E, as well as the minerals calcium, magnesium and zinc.
- X Xenon is a dense and odourless gas found in trace amounts in the Earth's atmosphere important due to its diverse applications. It's a noble gas used in specialized lighting applications like high-intensity lamps such as car headlights and flashlight technology. It plays a vital role as an aesthetic and contrast agent in medical imaging. Additionally, xenon is a propellant for ion thrusters in spacecrafts, offering efficient and long-lasting thrust for manoeuvring in space. Xenon was discovered by the Scottish chemist William Ramsay and English chemist Morris Travers in 1899. Ramsay suggested the name xenon from the Greek word ξένος xénos, meaning 'foreign(er)', 'strange(r)', or 'guest'.
- Y Yield is a measurement of the amount of agricultural products harvested per unit of land area. It's the measure most often used for cereal, grain and legumes or other products such as wool, meat or milk. The word "yield" has its origins in Old English, stemming from the word gieldan, meaning "to pay" or "to render." Over time, the meaning of yield expanded beyond simply paying or rendering something. It also came to mean "giving way", "submitting", or as seen in its modern uses related to surrendering, or conceding under some degree of pressure.
- Z Zenith is the highest point the sun reaches in the sky on its daily path. It is the point directly overhead, 90 degrees above the horizon. In Buddhism, zenith symbolizes the ultimate spiritual peak or enlightenment, embodying the highest aspiration and direction in one's spiritual journey, equivalent to reaching the pinnacle of understanding.

In the 1930s and 1940s Shell produced a number of promotional films for the oil and automobile industries, including Joris Ivens' Oil for Aladdin's Lamp (1949). The film advertises oil as a mythical substance and liquid infrastructure engineering travel, science, and the 'matters' of everyday life. It shows oil's dizzying applications in popular consumption, from ashtrays and musical instruments to food production...oil creating 'miracles undreamed of by Aladdin himself.' The film illustrates the industry's abstraction and denial of the transformations brought about by the global extraction of oil.

In her newly created poster, artist Steffi Klenz couples photographic stills from the film with abstract forms and motifs from Kodak grey-scale cards and colour separation guides, used in darkrooms worldwide to ensure correct tonal accuracy and colour reproduction in printing and photography. These photographic tools have significantly shaped our perception of photography, leading to the 'correct' results of representing truth and reality. Klenz's poster highlights how photography as a visual medium helped to normalize the use of oil by creating a visual fixation, enabling corporations such as Shell to create a positive public perception and build trust around the fossil fuel.

Steffi Klenz is an artist based in London who approaches photography as an expanded visual discipline. Her work indicates an interest in the political engagement with environments or geographies in conflict, considering the relationship between aesthetics, technology and representation.