

# GRADIENT

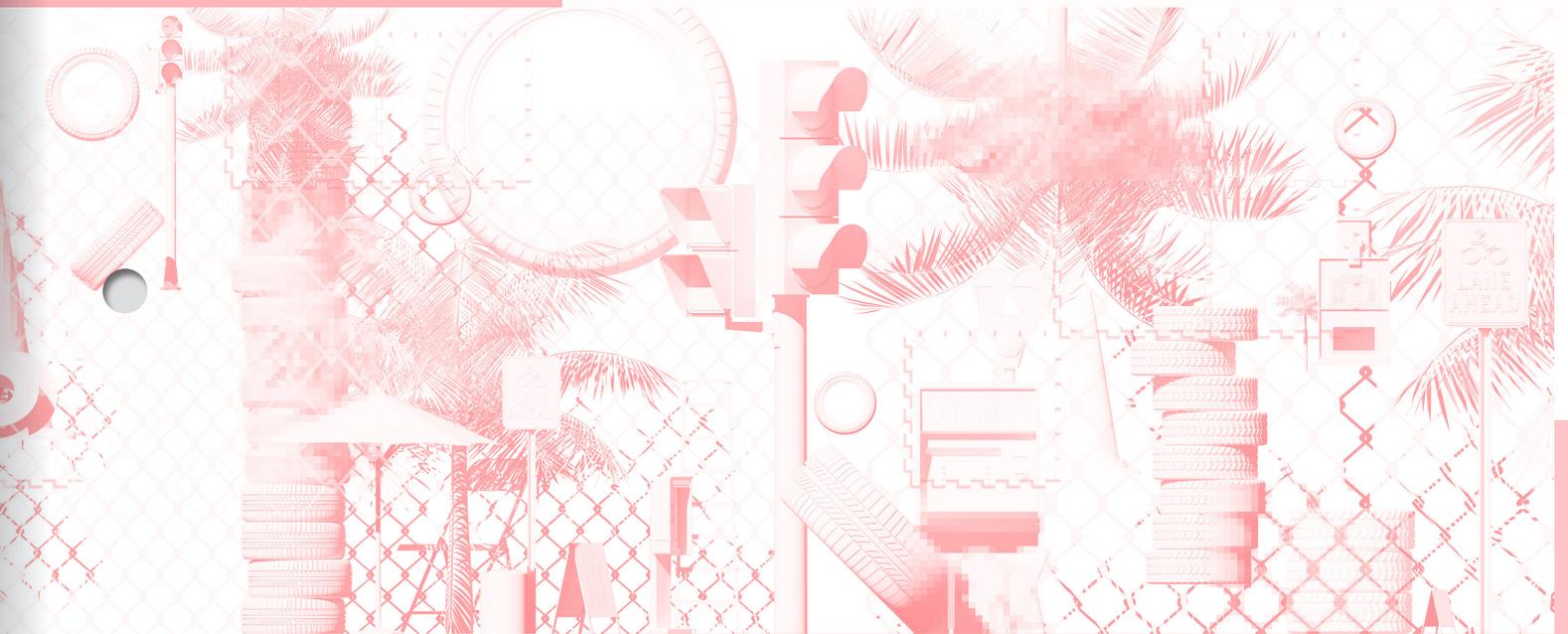
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Asynchronous object of edible artifacts

## FACULTY PROJECT PAPER





Title

# LOSSY/ LOSSLESS

Completed, March 2019

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CLUTTER (EXTENTS)



Lossy/Lossless is a temporary environment for a **neighborhood on the cusp of change**. The project was designed as the first installation for the new home of Materials & Applications (M&A), a Los Angeles-based non-profit cultural organization dedicated to expanding the role of architecture and art in the public sphere through exhibitions and critical programming. M&A's new space on Sunset Boulevard is located in a rapidly-gentrifying part of Los Angeles's Echo Park. This context posed a unique challenge for an organization dedicated to community engagement through public programming. **Who constitutes the public in such a rapidly-changing neighborhood?** Can newcomers and longtime residents coexist? How are the politics of development impacting the existing community? And **how can an arts organization address its role in such development?**

This project sought to provide a forum for discussion on these questions and more: conceiving of M&A's storefront on Sunset as an extension of the street that could host a range of programming across the duration of the installation. Designed for ease of assembly, Lossy/Lossless is composed of a handful of principal elements. First, a custom-made tableau wraps the walls of the entire gallery. The tableau features elements of Sunset Boulevard's past and future assembled in an asynchronous collage that combines markers of the neighborhood's history and signifiers of nascent gentrification. Piles of tires from a bygone flat-fix co-mingle with newly installed bike racks; payphones abut boutique placards. Some elements appear ghostly and translucent—in the act of disappearance. Elsewhere, pieces of the tableau are willfully pixelated, as if affected by digital loss.



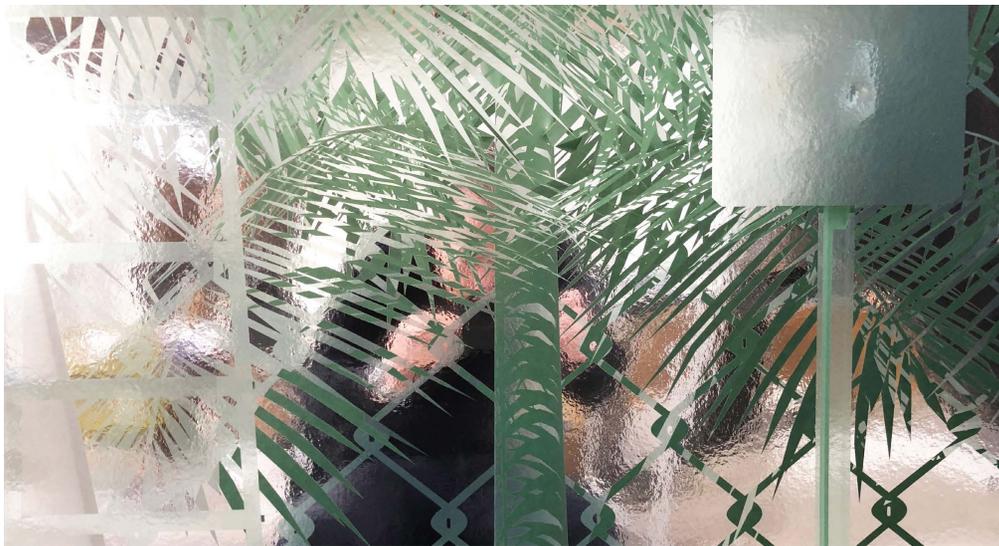
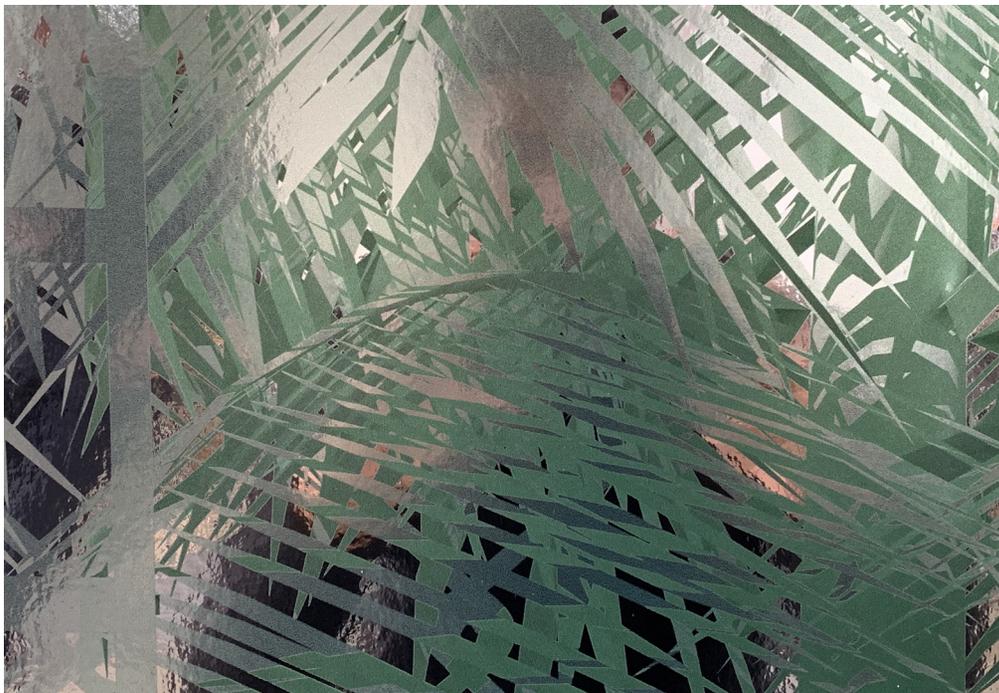
[Fig. 1] Lossy/Lossless exhibition's interface blurring the boundaries of Sunset Boulevard's asynchronous objects





[Fig. 2] The Lossy/Lossless exhibition entrance as viewed from the street

Assembled at multiple scales to juxtapose time and space, the tableau elements are digitally printed on a reflective wall covering. As one looks through the storefront, the streetlife is reflected amidst the tableau elements, blurring the inside and outside and figuring the present public into a condensed image of the boulevard.



[Fig. 3-8] A test print of the reflective tableau was used to calibrate visual effects



[Fig. 9] Street objects begin to blur familiar notions of interior, exterior, past, and present

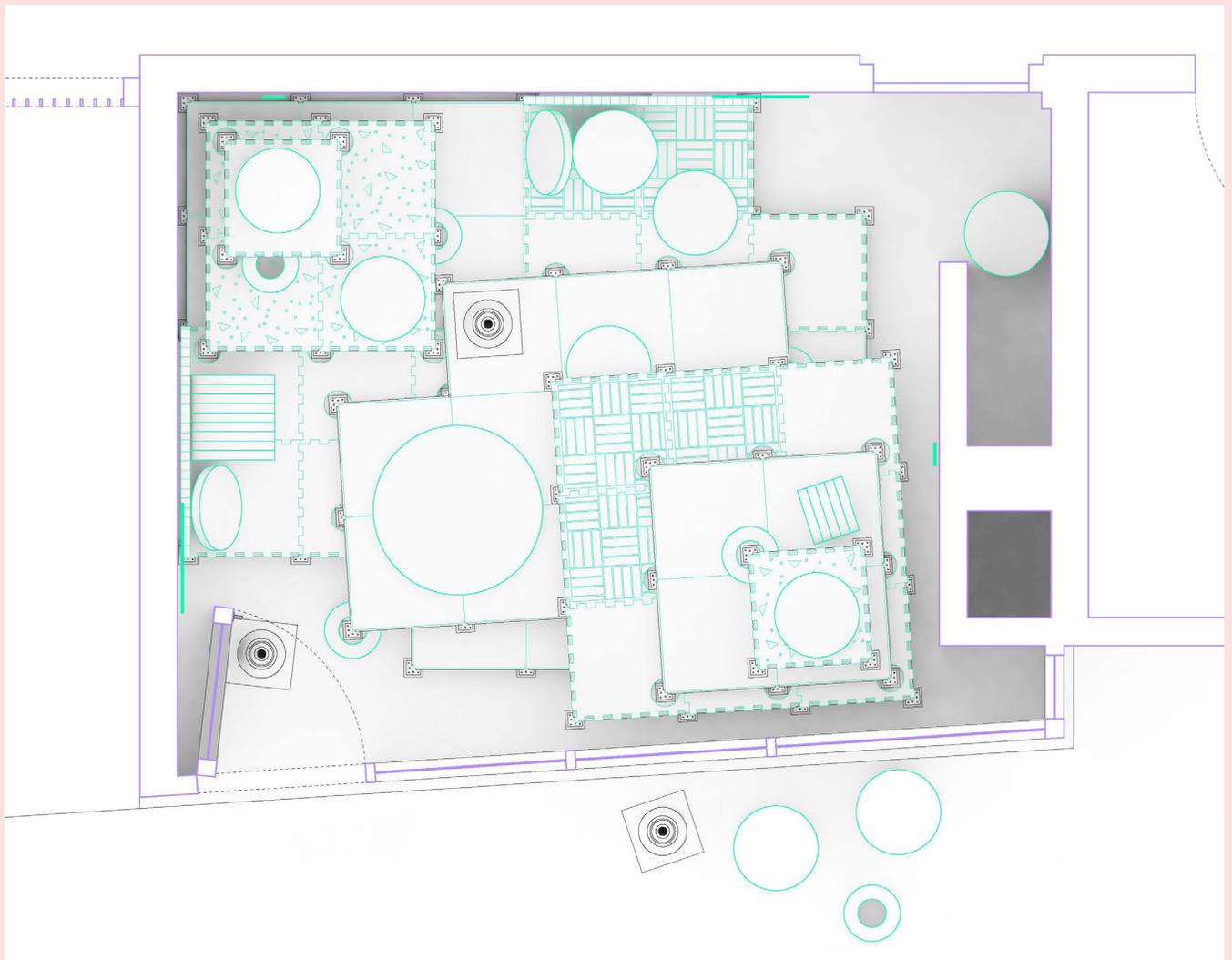




[Fig. 10] Objects spill, or in some cases only seem to spill, out into the streetscape as visitors walk by and engage the window



[Fig. 11] A Sunset Boulevard object study instigated the tableau's figures, taking shape from the neighborhood's past and future © Google, EXTENTS



[Fig. 12] Exhibition plan

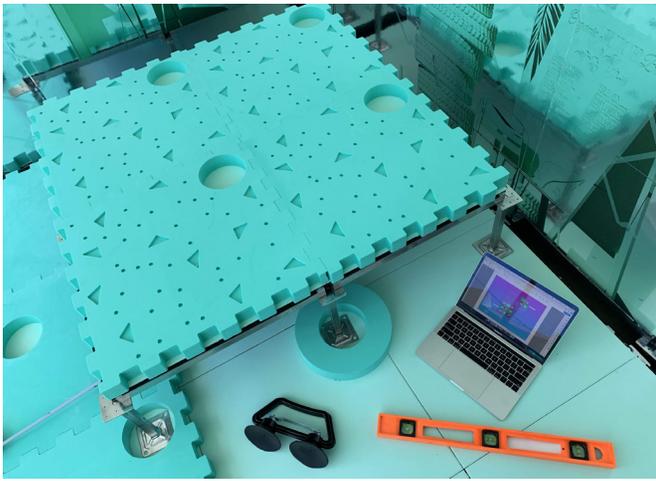
A mutably occupiable floorscape fills the remainder of the storefront space, assembled from an off-the-shelf, data-center floor system and covered with custom-made, high-density foam padding. By using a floor system composed of clearly defined tectonic elements, the object-quality of the floor elements begins to merge with the objects depicted in the tableau.



[Fig. 13] EXTENTS Partner McLain Clutter installing the data floor system



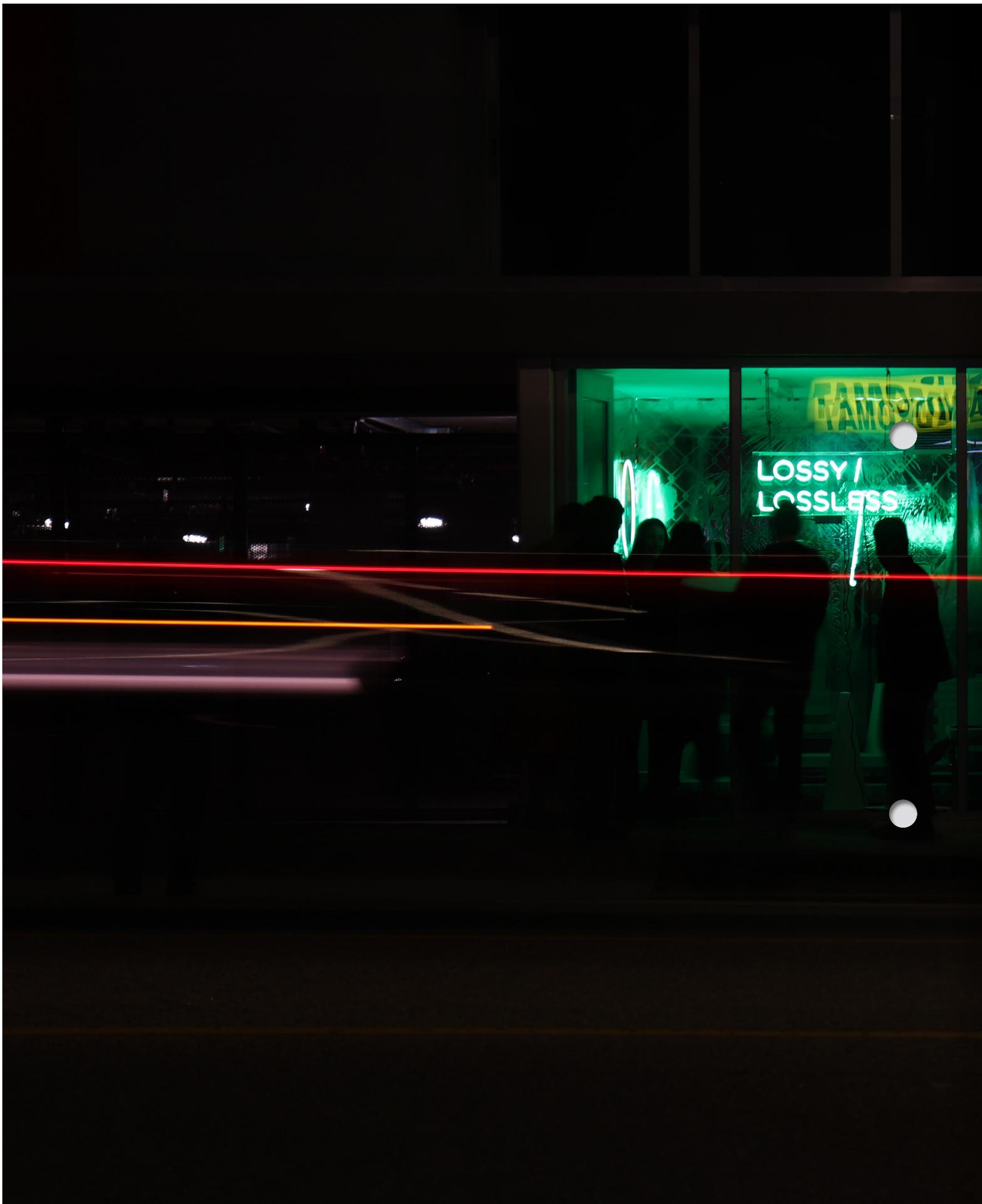
[Fig. 14–16] Process photos detailing the construction of the floorscape’s custom foam padding  
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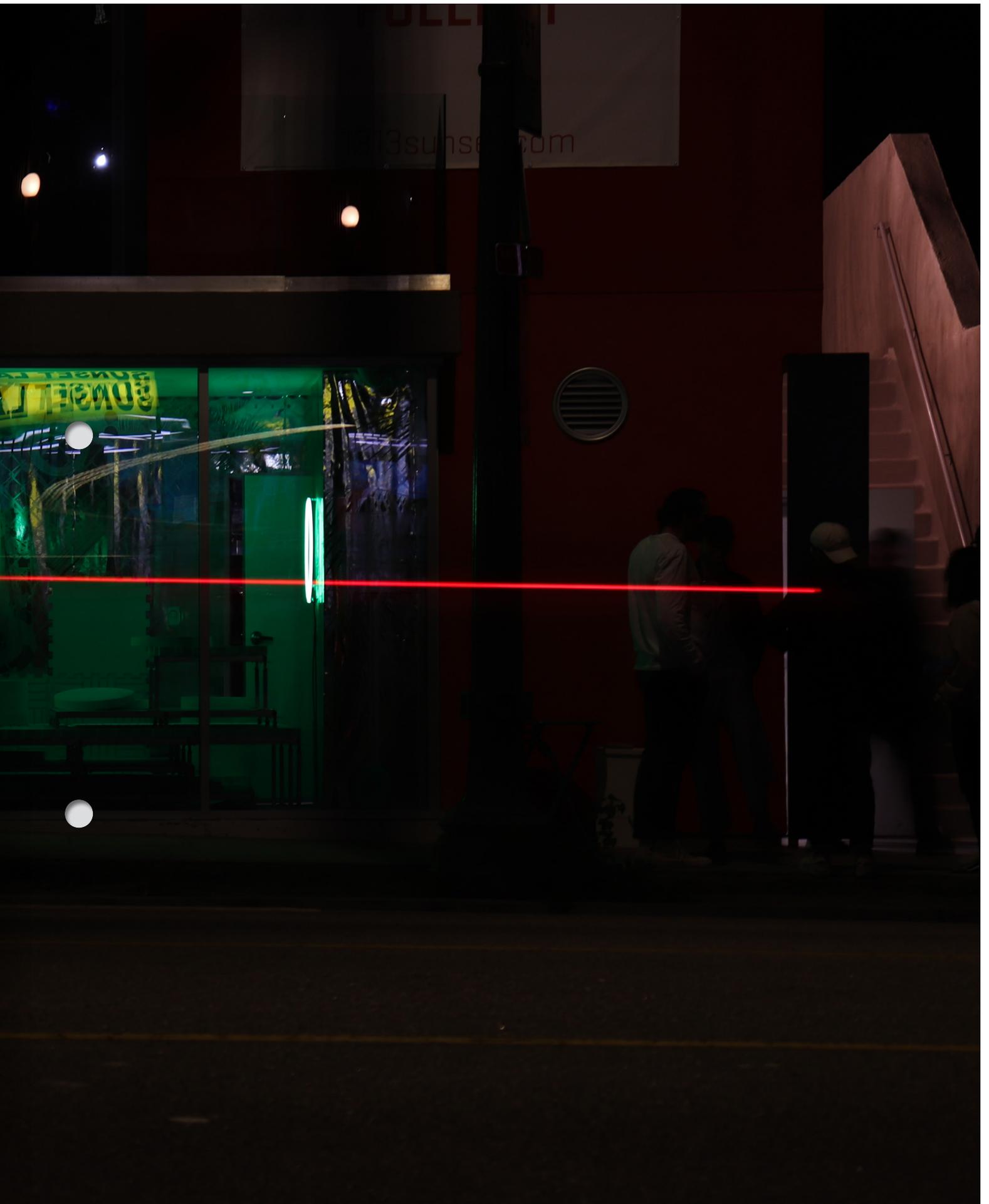
[Fig. 17] Installing the tableau



[Fig. 18] Early stages of the custom foam padding installation

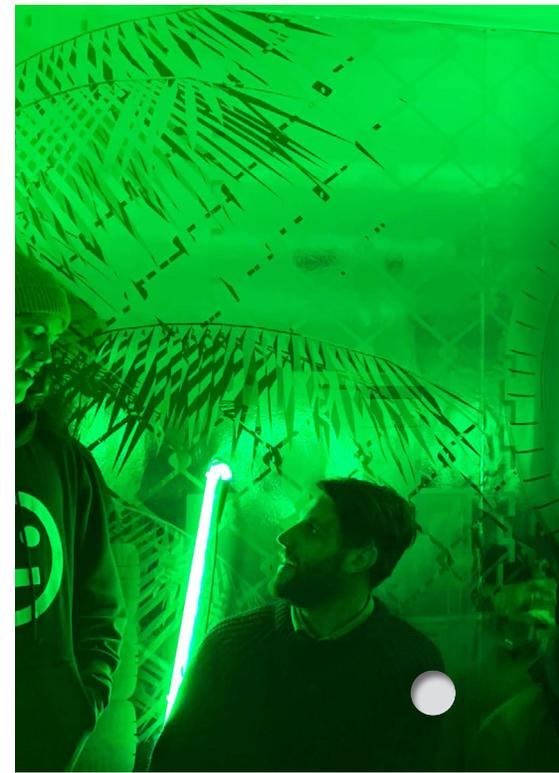


[Fig. 19] Mateus Comparato for Materials & Applications  
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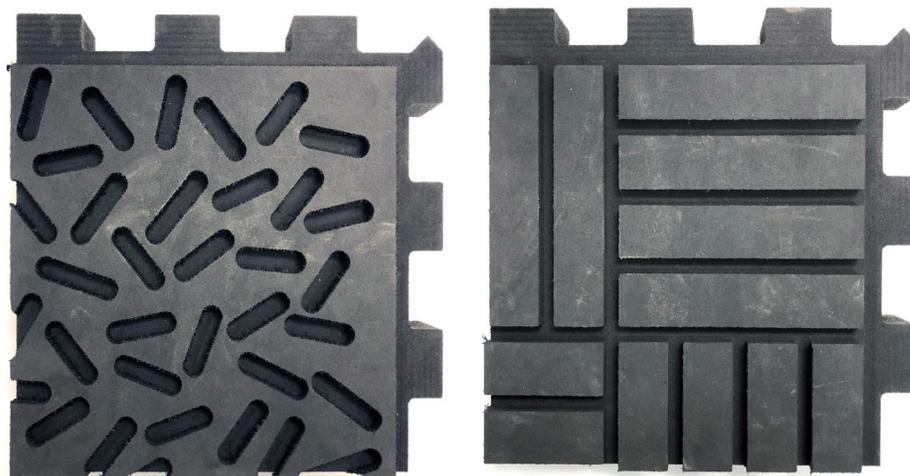




[Fig. 210 Neon fixtures help to create a different saturated environment by nightfall



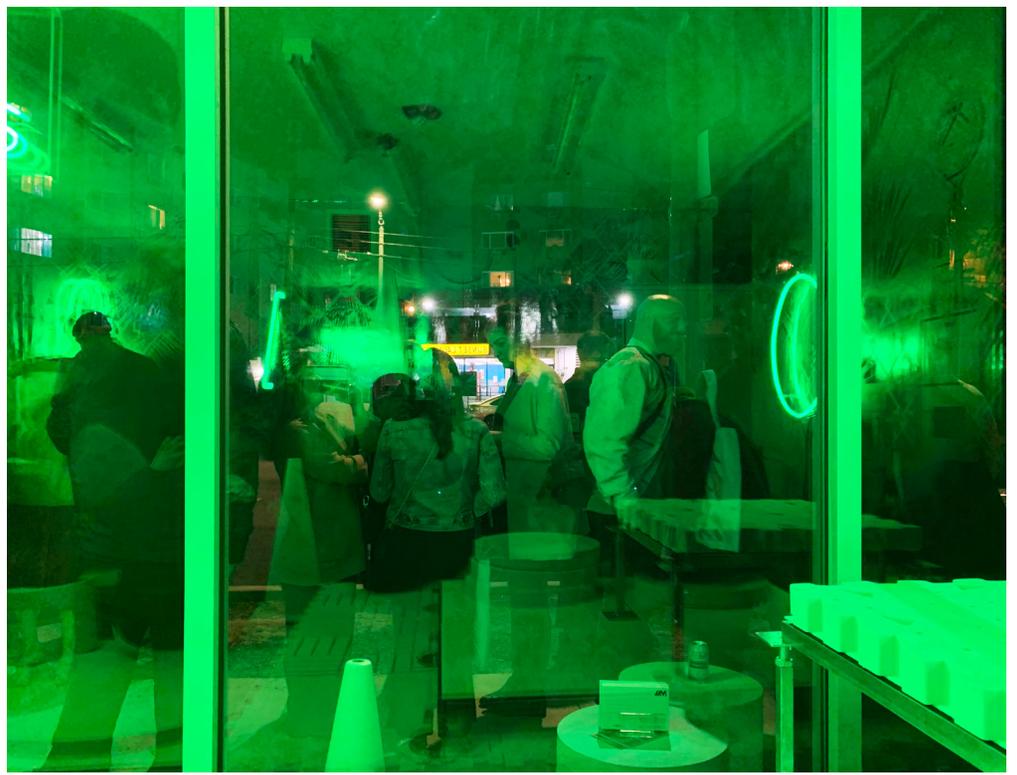
[Fig. 21] The tableau simultaneously enlightens and blurs the o



The system was deployed to accommodate a range of loosely programmed activities, from a meeting of the Echo Park Cribbage Club, to an assembly of the local historical society, to after-school activities for the neighborhood youth, to pop-up retail for local artists—all gathered on the floor and reflected on the walls as part of the changing neighborhood image.



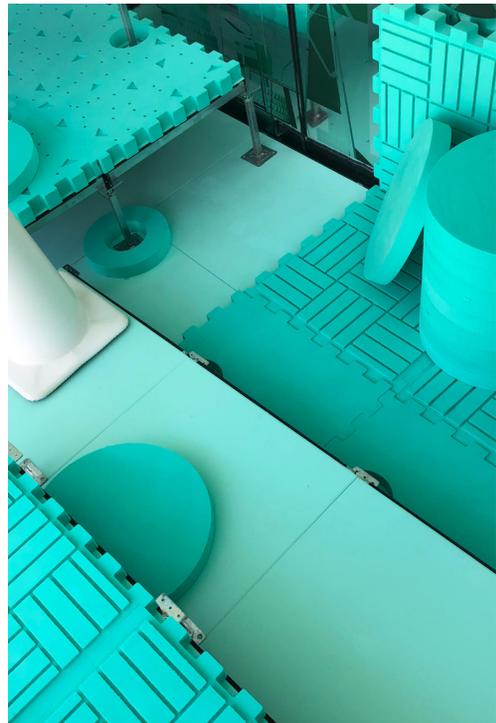
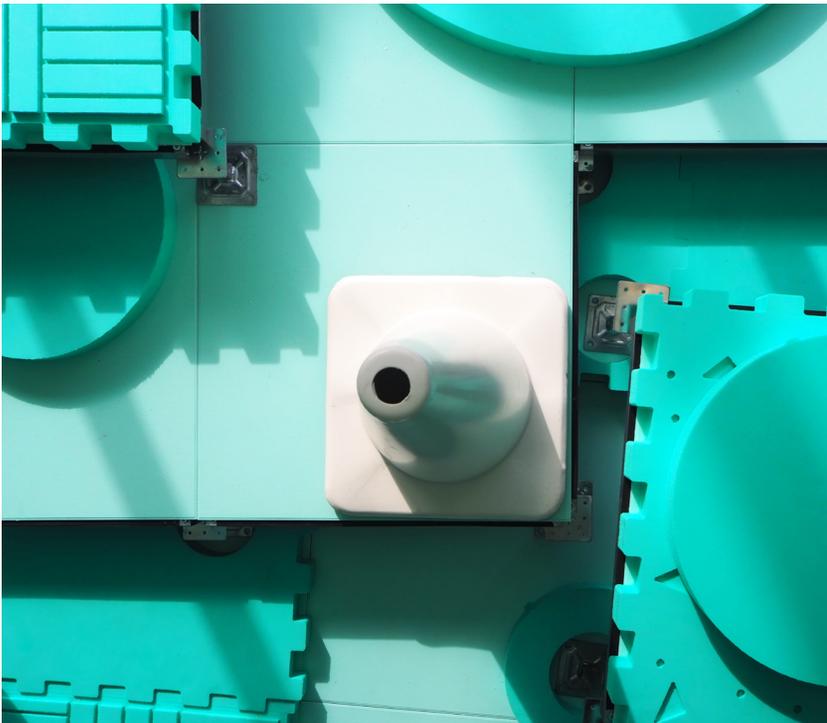
Objects within with a green glow



[Fig. 22] Opening night as viewed from the interior, looking out toward Sunset Boulevard



[Fig. 23] Process photos detailing the construction of the floorscape's custom foam padding © EXTENTS



[Figs. 24 & 25] Detail photo of multi-layered expression of componentry  
Faculty Project Paper

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EXTENTS [Figs. 1–10, 13-18, 20–25],  
Mateus Comparato for Materials &  
Applications [Fig. 19]

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Tableau reflections in the act of disappearing

Street objects pixelated in the tableau



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