

## The Case for Building Specifications in the Context of Temporary Urbanism

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Under the banner of temporary or DIY urbanism, ephemeral interventions have attracted in recent years worldwide attention for their capacity to transform socio-political and physical spaces. Operating at the fringes of building regulations, activist-led constructions are entrusted with an exceptional freedom to use and to creatively misuse off-the-shelf, recycled and salvaged materials. However, there is surprisingly limited research focusing on the materiality, skills and construction techniques of such interventions; this paper aims to discuss, through a series of contemporary European case studies, the role of building specifications in the context of temporary urbanism. We will critically analyse the extent to which the building documents, manuals or toolkits generated by activist practitioners can be read within the framework of building specifications (such as the NBS in the UK). Finally, we will evaluate the potential impact of an alternative open-source framework of technical literature with view to intensify the culture of such practices at a much wider scale.

### Biographies:

Daniel Mallo and Armelle Tardiveau are architects and lecturers in architecture at Newcastle University. Their research interest focuses on temporary urbanism as a socially engaged practice and its fabrication. As practitioners, since they established *ec-architects*, they have been commissioned by Creative Partnerships Cumbria, Art Gene and the SPINDUS research project led by KU Leuven.