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**ABSTRACT:** Today, the relentless surge of industrialization and urbanization across the globe, is accelerating climate change that brings humanity down to a critical juncture, one where sustainability seems to be the lone ray of hope. Without a doubt, the built environment and the materials employed play a huge role and thus a set of innovative students from RV College of Architecture, set out to foster sustainable solutions.

Solar Decathlon, a nationwide competition organized by The Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), and The Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) is a challenge proposed to undergraduate and postgraduate students of India to explore net zero building concepts of which Residential Cooling Retrofit is a new sect that the students took part in. The participants are invited to propose real time projects with the aim of retrofitting a sustainable solution for the existing cooling systems.

As the Earth groans beneath the weight of climate change, our world stands at a precipice, a crossroad where sustainability is no longer a choice, but a necessity. In this moment of ecological urgency, a group of visionary students has embarked on a journey to transform bio-waste into a beacon of hope—the Mushcool panel. A harmonious blend of architecture, engineering, and design, this innovative solution seeks to redefine the very fabric of our interiors.

In today's world, where environmental concerns are paramount, the construction industry is under increasing pressure to adopt sustainable practices. One sect that has significant potential for improvement is energy consumption, particularly in relation to cooling systems. Traditional cooling methods often rely on harmful refrigerants and consume substantial amounts of energy. However, a new wave of innovative solutions is emerging that offers a rather sustainable and efficient approach.

This product is one such innovation that promises to revolutionize the cooling landscape. While the word "mushroom" conjures images of delectable vegetarian dishes, it's easy to overlook its potential as a revolutionary building material. While mycelium has gained recognition as a sustainable packaging and construction material, its application as a natural cooling retrofit offers an intriguing prospect. Born from the humble oyster mushroom, sugarcane bagasse, and sawdust, the mycelium panel is a testament to the power of nature's ingenuity.

The panel is also a testament to human ingenuity which offers a modular design that seamlessly integrates into existing structures, providing homeowners with a practical and accessible solution. Its remarkable ability to significantly reduce daytime heat gain offers a tangible respite from the scorching sun, creating a cooler and more comfortable living environment.

Beyond its functional benefits, the mycelium panel drives for a positive change:

This product provides a comprehensive solution that addresses multiple environmental concerns. By significantly reducing overall heat in the affected space, it helps to lower energy consumption and reduce the carbon footprint of buildings. Additionally, its ease of maintenance and biodegradable nature contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly product lifecycle.



Source :Team Archtic Air SDI report

The benefits of this product extend beyond energy efficiency. Its ability to create a healthier indoor environment can enhance the well-being of occupants. Moreover, by reducing the need for harmful refrigerants, it helps in protecting the ozone layer and mitigating climate change.

The synergy created by this product is evident in its appeal to various stakeholders in the construction industry. Designers and engineers can leverage its capabilities to create more sustainable and energy-efficient buildings. For end consumers, it offers a comfortable and environmentally responsible living or working space. As for governments seeking to promote a greener future, it aligns with their sustainability goals and contributes to a sustainable society.

As we navigate the complexities of our modern world, this product stands as a testament to the power of human innovation when guided by a commitment to sustainability. It is a gentle reminder that progress and harmony can coexist, that the pursuit of a greener future is not merely a noble aspiration but a tangible reality within our reach.



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## **Team Archtic Air**

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