

Section 09 77 53

Preserved Moss Wall Systems — Guide Specification

CSI Division 09 — Finishes · Document AMC-TD-03 · Revision 04 · Issued 22 July 2026 · Austin Moss Creations LLC · Austin, Texas · 737.373.2803 · info@austinmosscreations.com · austinmosscreations.com

SPECIFIER NOTE — This is a guide specification. Text in [BRACKETS] indicates a selection or project-specific value to be confirmed by the specifier; recommended defaults are noted. Delete specifier notes before issuing. Verify all bracketed selections against current product data and project conditions before issuing.

SPECIFIER NOTE — Preserved botanical wall systems are specified under Section 09 77 53 by industry convention. Materials specified in this Section are non-living and require no irrigation, drainage, growing medium, or horticultural maintenance. Where the Project manual uses a different section number for special wall surfacing, renumber accordingly and retain the content.

Part 1 — General

1.1 Summary

A. Section includes interior preserved moss wall systems, factory-fabricated as modular panels and field-installed as a durable interior architectural finish intended for long-term commercial interior applications when installed and maintained in accordance with Austin Moss Creations published requirements, including the following system types:

- Structured Wall: controlled composition with defined geometry and stabilized botanical material.
- Hybrid Wall: structured composition combined with organic botanical texture.
- Wild Wall: organic, layered botanical composition with natural variation.

B. Scope of this Section: Work of this Section is limited to the preserved moss wall system, including preserved botanical materials, acoustic felt layer, structural backing panel, fabricated non-electrical branding or lettering elements, and concealed mounting. Electrical work, illuminated elements, and integrated lighting are not included in this Section and are provided under Division 26 by others.

C. Use limitations: Preserved moss wall systems are interior architectural finishes. They are not intended for environments subject to repeated physical contact, abrasion, impact, or public interaction. Do not locate in high-contact circulation zones unless protected by project-specific design measures.

D. Related requirements:

- Section 06 1000 — Rough Carpentry: wood blocking and backing for support of moss wall systems.
- Section 09 2900 — Gypsum Board: substrate wall construction to receive moss wall systems.
- Division 26 — Electrical: electrical rough-in, connection, and integrated or illuminated elements, by others.

1.2 References

A. ASTM International: ASTM E84, Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials; ASTM C423, Sound Absorption and Sound Absorption Coefficients.

B. European Committee for Standardization: EN 13501-1 / UNE-EN 13501-1:2019, Fire Classification of Construction Products and Building Elements.

C. Underwriters Laboratories: UL 723, Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials.

1.3 Submittals

A. Product Data: Fabricator's product data sheet, including material descriptions, panel modules, system weights by type, environmental requirements, fabrication lead time, and maintenance requirements.

B. Shop Drawings: Submit in two stages.

- Stage 1 — Blocking Coordination Drawing: panel layout extents, mounting elevations, and blocking locations and extents, for coordination of blocking by others. Submit not less than [10] weeks prior to the required installation date and prior to wall closure.
- Stage 2 — Final Shop Drawings: final panel dimensions, joint locations, panel schedule, mounting system, coordination with electrical work by others, and relationship to adjacent construction, following field verification of the closed wall. Approved Stage 2 drawings returned to Fabricator not less than [8] weeks prior to the required installation date.

C. Samples: Representative samples of each moss type and finish specified, minimum 12 inches by 12 inches, for Architect's review and approval. Samples indicate the range of natural variation and are not a match standard for the completed Work.

D. Fire-Test-Response Documentation: Current component test documentation for the specific materials furnished on the Project:

- Acoustic felt layer (polyester, PET): ASTM E84 / UL 723 Class A test documentation. FSI 0–25; SDI 0–450.
- Structural backing panel: fire-retardant-treated wood-based structural panel, UL Classified, ASTM E84 / UL 723 Class A, FSI not greater than 25 under the extended 30-minute test, with treatment certification.
- Fire-rated preserved botanical material, where specified: EN 13501-1 B-s1,d0 classification documentation from an accredited third-party laboratory.

SPECIFIER NOTE — Classifications above are for individual component materials. They do not constitute a fire rating, classification, or listing of the assembled system, and no UL Classification applies to the assembled system. Where the Authority Having Jurisdiction requires assembly-level testing, retain paragraph 2.2.D and identify assembly testing as a Project cost in the Contract Documents.

E. Acoustic Performance Data: NRC data for the acoustic felt layer — NRC 0.85 at 3/8 inch and NRC 0.90 at 3/4 inch per ASTM C423. These values apply to the felt layer only and are not represented as whole-system moss wall acoustic values.

F. Maintenance Data: Fabricator's Maintenance & Care Guide for inclusion in operation and maintenance manuals.

G. Warranty: Fabricator's Commercial Limited Warranty.

1.4 Quality Assurance

A. Fabricator Qualifications: Firm regularly engaged in the design, fabrication, and installation of preserved botanical wall systems for commercial interiors, with not less than [ten] documented completed commercial installations of comparable scope and complexity, and able to provide project references upon request.

B. Installer Qualifications: Fabricator's own installation personnel, or an installer trained and approved by the Fabricator in writing prior to installation.

C. Single-Source Fabrication and Installation: Provide the preserved moss wall system through a single Fabricator responsible for fabrication of the panels and installation of the system. Component materials are procured by the Fabricator to the performance requirements of this Section and documented at submittal. Substrate, blocking, structural support, and electrical work are provided by others under their respective Sections.

D. Design Responsibility:

Austin Moss Creations provides product information, performance data, and installation requirements for the preserved moss wall system. Shop drawings show panel layout, module dimensions, joint locations, and mounting component locations; they are not delegated-design submittals and are not represented as engineering documents. Project-specific design responsibility, including structural adequacy of the building structure, wall framing, substrate, and blocking, remains with the Architect of Record and the Project's design professionals unless Austin Moss Creations is separately contracted in writing for that scope.

E. Mockup: [Where required by the Architect,] provide a representative panel mockup for review of composition, color, texture, and workmanship prior to fabrication. The approved mockup establishes the standard for composition and workmanship and indicates the range of natural variation; it is not a match standard for color and texture of individual panels. Approved mockup may remain as part of the Work.

1.5 Delivery, Storage, and Handling

A. Deliver materials in original protective packaging.

B. Store indoors in a clean, dry, climate-controlled environment within the conditions specified in Article 1.6, protected from direct sunlight, moisture, and physical damage, until installation.

C. Handle panels to prevent crushing, compression, or distortion of botanical material.

1.6 Field Conditions

A. Environmental Limitations: Do not begin installation until the space is enclosed and weatherproof and wet work is complete and dry. Maintain temperature between 60°F and 80°F and relative humidity between 30% and 60% during and after installation.

B. Substrate: Do not begin installation until the substrate has been inspected and accepted. See Article 3.1.

C. Preserved moss wall systems are for interior application only. Not for exterior application, direct water contact, or sustained direct sunlight.

1.7 Warranty

A. Fabricator's Commercial Limited Warranty: Fabricator warrants the preserved moss wall system against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of five years from the date of Substantial Completion, under normal interior commercial use within the environmental conditions specified in Article 1.6.

B. The Austin Moss Creations Commercial Limited Warranty is the sole and exclusive warranty for the system and governs all coverage, conditions, owner responsibilities, exclusions, remedies, and limitations. Refer to that document for complete terms. Adherence to the Fabricator's Maintenance & Care Guide and to the environmental conditions specified in Article 1.6 is a condition of warranty validity.

Part 2 — Products

2.1 Basis of Design / Fabricator

A. Basis-of-Design Fabricator and Installer: Austin Moss Creations LLC, Austin, Texas. Telephone 737.373.2803. Website austinmosscreations.com.

B. Substitutions:

- [Substitutions permitted in accordance with Section 01 2500 — Substitution Procedures, on demonstration of all of the following: component-level fire-test documentation equivalent to that required in Article 1.3.D for every component material; acoustic test documentation equivalent to Article 1.3.E; documented completed commercial installations of comparable scope and complexity meeting Article 1.4.A; single-source fabrication and installation meeting Article 1.4.C; and a written five-year commercial limited warranty on the installed system.]
- [No substitutions permitted.]

SPECIFIER NOTE — Recommended default: the performance-criteria option. It is more likely to survive review on publicly funded and institutional work than an outright prohibition, and the criteria are substantive rather than nominal. Retain "No substitutions permitted" only where Project delivery or Owner standards require it.

2.2 System Description and Performance

A. Preserved Moss Wall System: Factory-fabricated modular panel system consisting of stabilized, non-living botanical material applied to a rigid structural backing panel, with an acoustic felt layer where scheduled, designed for concealed mechanical attachment to interior wall construction.

B. Standard Panel Modules: 24 inches by 24 inches accent; 24 inches by 48 inches standard; 48 inches by 96 inches large format for installations of approximately 200 square feet and larger. Non-standard sizes may be available subject to project review; confirm with Fabricator during coordination.

C. Performance Requirements:

- Surface Burning: Component materials with current fire-test documentation as required in Article 1.3.D. Classifications apply to individual component materials and do not constitute a fire rating, classification, or listing of the assembled system. No UL Classification applies to the assembled system.
- Acoustic Performance: Where the acoustic felt layer is provided, NRC 0.85 at 3/8 inch and NRC 0.90 at 3/4 inch per ASTM C423, applicable to the felt layer only.
- Dead Load: Structured Wall typically 6–8 lb per square foot; Hybrid Wall typically 7–9 lb per square foot; Wild Wall typically 9–12 lb per square foot. Values are typical, determined from production panels. Final system weight for the Project composition is confirmed at submittal and governs structural coordination.
- Maintenance: No irrigation, no artificial lighting, and no horticultural maintenance required.

D. [Assembly Testing: Where required by the Authority Having Jurisdiction, provide full-assembly ASTM E84 testing of the specified system. Assembly testing is a Project cost, requires lead time in addition to the fabrication lead time, and shall be identified in the Contract Documents.]

2.3 Materials

A. Preserved Botanical Material: Commercial-grade real moss and botanical material, stabilized through a preservation process. Non-living; no irrigation required. [Flat] [Pole] [Mood] [Pillow] [Reindeer] moss as indicated on Drawings or as selected by Architect. Color: [Natural] [As selected]. Where fire-rated botanical material is specified or required, provide material classified B-s1,d0 in accordance with EN 13501-1 by an accredited third-party laboratory, with classification documentation provided at submittal.

SPECIFIER NOTE — Not all preserved botanical material carries a fire classification. Where a fire classification is required, schedule fire-rated material explicitly. Color range and composition options for fire-rated lines may differ from standard material.

B. Acoustic Felt Layer: Commercial polyester (PET) acoustic felt meeting ASTM E84 / UL 723 Class A; FSI 0–25, SDI 0–450; NRC 0.85 at 3/8 inch and 0.90 at 3/4 inch per ASTM C423 applicable to the felt layer only. Provide where sound absorption is scheduled. Thickness: [3/8 inch] [3/4 inch].

C. Structural Backing Panel: Fire-retardant-treated wood-based structural panel, UL Classified, meeting ASTM E84 / UL 723 Class A with FSI not greater than 25 under the extended 30-minute test.

D. Bonding: Fabricator's proprietary bonding system, selected for compatibility with the specified botanical material and backing panel. Where the Project requires adhesive VOC content data, identify the requirement during coordination; product data will be provided at submittal.

E. Integrated Elements: Logos, lettering, and dimensional elements as indicated on Drawings, fabricated and integrated by the Fabricator. Illuminated and electrical elements are not included in this Section.

F. Sourcing: Component materials are procured from approved sources meeting the published performance requirements of this document. Austin Moss Creations reserves the right to provide materials from any source meeting or exceeding those requirements. Materials furnished on a given Project are documented at submittal.

2.4 Mounting System

A. Concealed Mounting: Fabricator's concealed mechanical mounting system utilizing interlocking Z-clip (French cleat) attachment, designed for secure and level installation with concealed fastening to interior wall construction.

B. Fasteners: Corrosion-resistant fasteners appropriate for the substrate, as selected by the Fabricator.

2.5 Fabrication

A. Fabricate panels under controlled interior conditions to the dimensions and composition shown on the approved Stage 2 shop drawings.

B. Panelize installations for transport, handling, and concealed field assembly.

C. Inspect panels prior to shipment for conformance to the approved shop drawings.

Part 3 — Execution

3.1 Examination

A. Examine substrates and conditions, with Installer present, for compliance with requirements for installation tolerances, blocking, backing, and other conditions affecting performance of the Work.

B. Substrate Tolerances: Substrate shall be plumb and level within plus or minus 1/8 inch in 8 feet, or plus or minus 3/16 inch in 10 feet. Conditions outside tolerance shall be corrected by others prior to installation.

C. Verify that environmental conditions are within the limits specified in Article 1.6 before proceeding.

D. Where substrate or conditions do not comply with the requirements of this Section, notify Contractor and Architect in writing before commencing installation.

E. Commencement of installation constitutes acceptance of substrate and conditions.

3.2 Preparation

- A. Coordinate location of blocking, backing, and electrical rough-in with related trades prior to wall closure, in accordance with the approved Stage 1 Blocking Coordination Drawing.
- B. Protect adjacent surfaces and finishes from damage during installation.

3.3 Installation

- A. Install the moss wall system in accordance with the Fabricator's written instructions and the approved Stage 2 shop drawings.
- B. Install the concealed mounting system level and securely fastened to wall construction and blocking.
- C. Set panels level, plumb, and in alignment, with joints between panels closed and concealed so that panel joints are not visually prominent in the completed installation. Variation in color, texture, and density is inherent to natural preserved botanical material and is not a defect.
- D. Integrate fabricated branding elements as indicated. Electrical and illuminated elements are provided and connected under Division 26 by others.

3.4 Cleaning and Protection

- A. Remove construction debris and clean adjacent surfaces upon completion.
- B. Protect the installed system from damage, moisture, construction dust, and excessive handling until Substantial Completion. Provide dust control in the vicinity of the installed system.

3.5 Maintenance

- A. Preserved moss wall systems require no irrigation, no artificial lighting, and no horticultural maintenance.
- B. Maintain interior conditions within the temperature and relative humidity ranges specified in Article 1.6. Protect from direct sunlight and moisture.
- C. Clean only in accordance with the Fabricator's Maintenance & Care Guide. Do not water.

END OF SECTION 09 77 53

Document Control

Document title	Section 09 77 53 — Preserved Moss Wall Systems, Guide Specification
Document number	AMC-TD-03
Revision	04
Issue date	22 July 2026
Status	Released for distribution
Document owner	Mary Cowger, Founder & Creative Principal, Austin Moss Creations LLC

Supersedes	Revision 03 (July 2026) and all prior revisions
Distribution	Public. Issued to specifiers for incorporation into project manuals.
Related documents	AMC-TD-01 · AMC-TD-02 · AMC-TD-04 · AMC-TD-05 · AMC-TD-06

Revision history

Rev.	Date	Description	Approved by
01	May 2026	Initial controlled release.	M. Cowger
02	June 2026	Warranty routed to the Commercial Limited Warranty; component manufacturers identified as acceptable sources for submittals; three-part structure preserved.	M. Cowger
03	July 2026	Contact information standardized; CSI section number confirmed as 09 77 53; coordination and lead-time references aligned.	M. Cowger
04	22 July 2026	Legal and specification audit implemented. Named products and "or equivalent" constructions removed from 2.3 and replaced with performance specifications. Fabrication and quality-control process disclosure removed from 2.5. Adhesive clause restated as a proprietary bonding system with VOC data available at submittal. Single-Source Responsibility retitled Single-Source Fabrication and Installation and scoped. Design responsibility clause added at 1.4.D. Shop drawings restructured into a two-stage submittal to resolve the blocking sequencing conflict. Full-assembly testing removed from Submittals and relocated to 2.2.D as a bracketed Project-cost option. Fabricator qualification restated from years to completed installations. "Seamless appearance" replaced at 2.5 and 3.3.C. Warranty article reduced to a pointer. Substitution default changed to performance criteria. Use limitations added at 1.1.C. Written notice of non-conforming substrate added at 3.1.D. Specifier note on section numbering added. Document control, revision history, supersedes statement, legal notice, and page footers added.	M. Cowger

This document, Revision 04 dated 22 July 2026, supersedes all prior revisions of Austin Moss Creations guide specification Section 09 77 53. Prior revisions are withdrawn and should not be relied upon. Specifiers holding a prior revision should replace it before issuing for a Project.

Legal notice

This document is provided for design assistance. Values shown are typical and are based on available test documentation for individual component materials under the standards noted; they do not represent tested performance of the assembled system. Project-specific conditions govern, and project values are confirmed at submittal. Nothing in this document constitutes a warranty, express or implied. The Austin Moss Creations Commercial Limited Warranty is the sole and exclusive warranty for the System.

© 2026 Austin Moss Creations LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction permitted solely for incorporation into the construction documents of a specific project.