

Supplementary Material (ESI) for Soft Matter  
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Supplemental Section for

**Patterning micron-sized features in a cross-linked poly(acrylic acid) film by a wet  
etching process**

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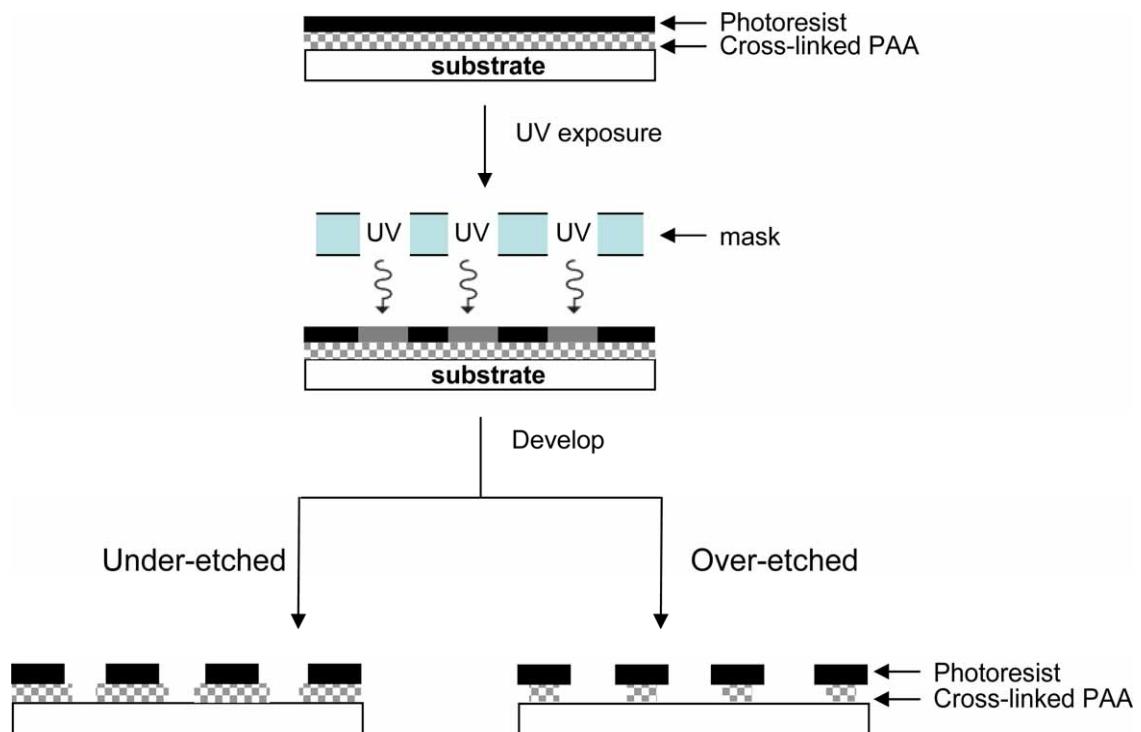


Figure S1:

A schematic representation illustrating a CCL-PAA film that has been either under-etched or over-etched.

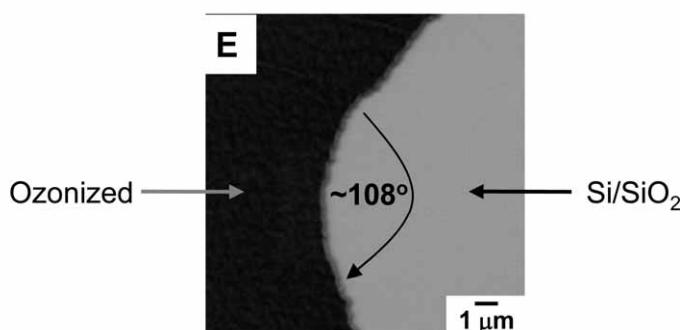
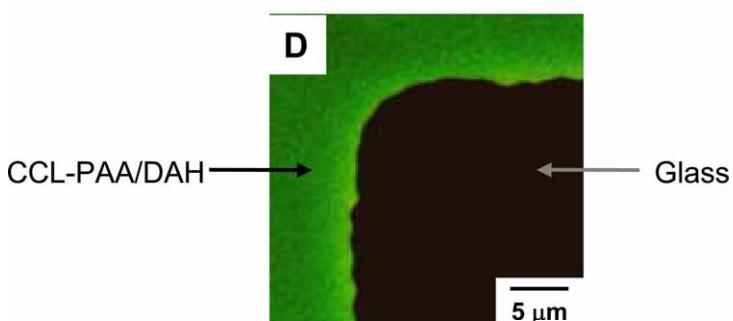
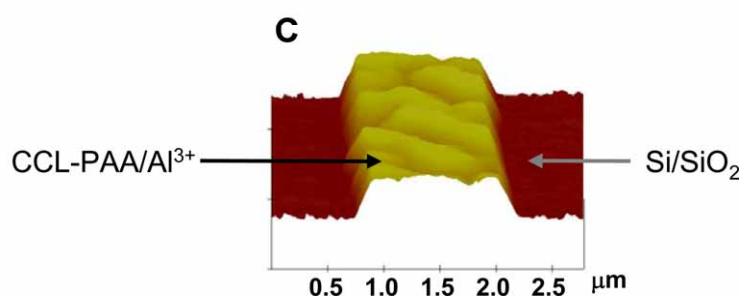
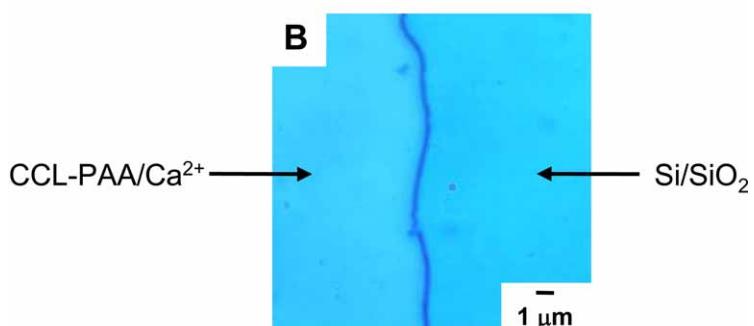
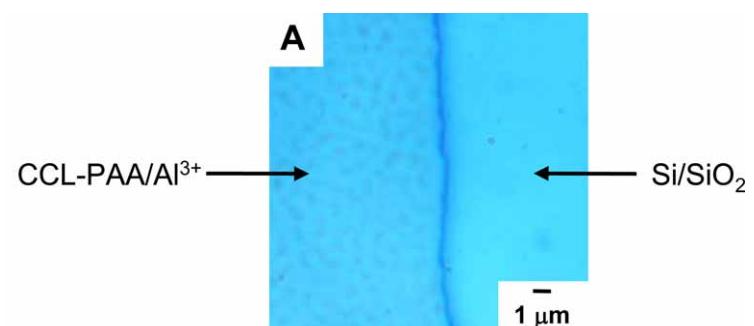


Figure S2:

A series of optical, AFM, and SEM images that illustrate at high resolution the roughness of the edges of the patterned CCL-PAA and low-k dielectric substrate. A-B) Edges from patterned CCL-PAA/ $\text{Al}^{3+}$  and CCL-PAA/ $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  films that used a photoplotted transparency mask similar to those of Figure 2B and 2C, respectively. C) An AFM image of the edge from a set of 1- $\mu\text{m}$  lines that used a chrome photomask and a CCL-PAA/ $\text{Al}^{3+}$  film (a high resolution image of Figure 2D). D) A fluorescent image of the edge roughness after cation exchange with DAH. E) Edge roughness of an aluminum oxide film after ozonation; the processing appears not to alter the edge roughness of the structure.

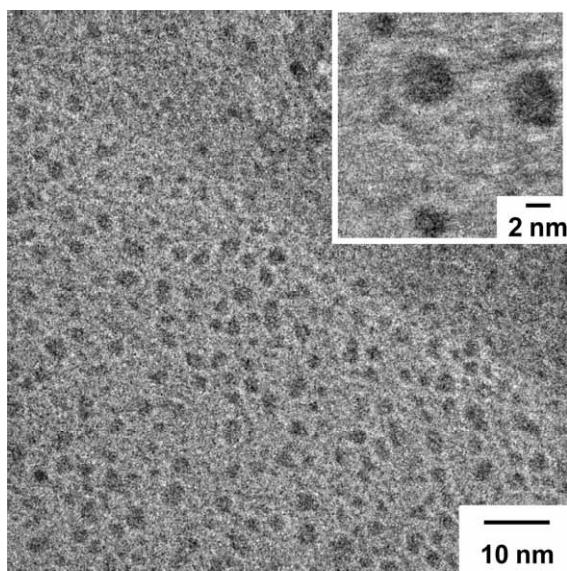


Figure S3:

A TEM image showing Ag nanoparticles embedded in a CCL-PAA/ $\text{Ag}^+$  matrix. The inset shows a typical particle with a diameter of  $\sim 3 \text{ nm}$ .