

Working with the artisans of Caxias do Sul (Brazil): a case study of sustainable Textile/Surface Design

Anicet, Anne. Ph.D. in Design from the University of Aveiro; anneanicet@hotmail.com .

Bessa, Pedro. Ph.D. In Design from the University of Aveiro; pbessa@ua.pt .

Broega, Cristina. PhD in Textile Engineering from the University of Minho; cbroega@det.uminho.pt .

Abstract

This paper is part of a case study conducted within a PhD Research in Design at the University of Aveiro (Portugal), whose focus is the development of the textile collage technique as a means for sustainable design.

The textile collage is a technique widely used in textile apparel production, to give greater rigidity to certain parts of garments such as collars, cuffs and lapels, but is still very little explored in the creation of new surface designs in the fashion area. A big advantage of this technique is that it allows exploring the handcraft abilities. It also has no environmental costs, making use only of the heat press in the implementation of the collages.

Crafting work is indubitably a differentiating factor in this kind of products even when inserted on a production scale. The pieces become unique, incorporating slight variations, due to the handcraft factor in its manufacturing process. As singular pieces, they acquire identity and character, one major concern in contemporary design, not to mention the environment issue.

To prepare this research, a survey was made in the region of Caxias do Sul (Brazil) where a clothing and textile wastes collecting bank, the Banco de Vestuário, serves 42 textile industries of this region. To give a correct destination to these residues is a recurrent problem for companies, since dumping them as domestic trash can result in serious tax consequences. Many companies give their waste to charities institutions, which use it in the manufacture of blankets, pillows and general handcrafts, keeping the local communities occupied. But this kind of work is devoid of design or any high added value.

This work has the aim of make the effort of some of these communities more sustainable, in this way 20 artisans associated with the Banco de Vestuário were trained to implement the techniques of collage with textile waste to the development of fashion garments, with surface design implemented.

A workshop performed with the artisans had a very significant success, resulting in products with high quality of execution. It was found that the technique was easily understood by the artisans because of the manual skills they already had, which represents an important step for the sustainability of local communities.

The collage technique apprehended by textile artisans throughout the workshop is under production and soon the products will be commercialized.