



Revive and Renew

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Contextual Review and Concept

Knitting and crocheting have undergone a significant revival in today's apparel and textile industry (Duan, 2017). These traditional textile techniques are developed into a popular and profitable market activity and they are valued as slow-fashion and culture that promote sustainable apparel design process. However, many apparel design students are not exposed to the traditional techniques such as knitting and felting in design courses. Thus, the purpose of this collaborative design, *Revive and Renew*, is to promote the value and raise awareness of the traditional textile techniques (i.e. knitting, crocheting, felting, hand embroidering) using a variety of upcycled animal fibers. Especially, using yarns to make fabric from interlocking loops, knitting and crocheting emphasize cradle to cradle approaches within a sustainable apparel design framework (McDonough & Braungart, 2002).

Aesthetic Properties and Visual Impact

The source of design inspiration is Sashiko, a Japanese hand-embroidery technique which means little stabs. This over-sized vintage style jacket integrates 100% wool, mohair, alpaca, and silk that are upcycled to form a cohesive design attribute. To accentuate the use of natural fibers, colors such as brown, oatmeal, grey, orange and hints of blues and green are used. The effect of needle felting wool roving creates gradients that blend the woven and knitted pieces of the jacket. As the needles catch the scales of the wool fiber and entangle them into place, more condensed areas are formed through the jacket. The reversed side of felting and embroidered stitch work are covered with a lining and the jacket has two functional front welt pockets.

Process, Technique, and Execution

The design and construction process for the jacket include: 1) sourcing animal fiber based materials that include upcycled 100% wool, mohair, alpaca, and silk yarns and fabrics, 2) machine knitting 30" wide stripe jersey knit (each stripe's length is 1¾" with three different worsted weight yarns) using a single bed hand flat domestic knitting machine, 3) hand knitting and crocheting a total of 20 swatches with various techniques such as cabling, garter stitch and lacework, 4) needle felting 100% wool roving of three different colors on the jacket and piecing various knitted swatches, 5) hand embroidering multi-colored yarns, and 6) steaming the garment to soften and relax the wool fibers.

Cohesion/ Design Contribution and Innovation

This project follows current design trends while integrating traditional textile techniques and promoting a sustainable apparel design process. This is particularly beneficial to apparel design students since the garment contains various swatches with different knit and crochet patterns for them to explore. It also shows versatile methods of using unfamiliar materials such as mohair and alpaca. This is an aesthetically pleasing garment that could be an educational tool that integrates various traditional textile design techniques.

References

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