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Season in review
Spring/summer 2018

Season in focus
Autumn/winter 18-19

Forward view
Spring/summer 2019

Fibres and fabrics

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Key impressions for A/W 18/19

At all the fairs this season, the issue on everyone's lips was 'sustainability'. Fabric producers are eager to show what they are doing to improve production in sustainable ways - whether by saving water, adding photovoltaic solar panels for energy, reducing chemical usage in dyeing and finishing or incorporating fibres/fabrics made from sustainable sources - including recycled fibres.

To spread the word, showing also its commitment to the issues, *Première Vision Paris* created the *Smart Square* area (the first one in 2016) - a physical space in the fair, dedicated to finding information, a place to discuss and promote the responsible approaches of its exhibitors and shed light on a new generation of values combining creativity, innovation and sustainability. It has become an annual event.

New directions A strong direction for next winter is in decorative finishes in a variety of techniques - applied with a creativity that was sometimes jaw dropping. Decoration in so many forms really stood out, adding value, in a dizzying profusion of effects and pattern. Patterns are fused or hybrid - mixing techniques and elements - for instance a wool Tattersal check fabric is puff printed with linear comic motifs at *Marini Industrie*. Weaves are embellished with inserted fancy yarns and dobby effects, and even classics in plains and checks have that little extra tweak to make it more modern and add value.

Needle punching is employed to embellish wools and felted wools, but also in other types of sports fabrics - such as needle punched decoration on scuba cloth, jerseys and cottons as well as on shirtings - alongside embroidered decoration. Added value in terms of design or quality is important for fabric producers to add difference to claim their place in the market place

Pattern and print Jacquards are ever present, in every sector in all weights



Première Vision Fabrics, Henry Bertrand

from the lightest silky cloques, to heavier wool based constructions - important for jackets and coats.

Jacquards are big, quilted and blistered in double cloths, decorated with fancy yarn, fil coupé fringes and floating wefts.

Silky jacquards in cloqués are in even bigger patterns - at *Henry Bertrand*, also with fil coupé effects and fringed.

Jacquards are engineered in placement patterns - some with an artisanal feel such as at *Malhia Kent*, which showed huge whacky patterns. Big yarns are inserted into jacquards as 'stitched' over-decoration or in woolly cut and fringed effects - often in heavier weight wools and mohair. Chenille is important as decoration creating a velvety surface.



Milano Unica, Malhia Kent

Velvets follow from last winter into the new season, for both men's and womenswear, in different forms. Devoré patterned velvets are back in silk/viscose, big and small (seen at *Weft*), and cut velvet in jacquards, also in metallic, iridescent, silky printed and embroidered version. Flock print patterns and borders creates a similar effect of velvety contrasts on silky fabrics.

Metallic effects are everywhere - in glistening fluid lamé fabrics in silver and gold, which might also be over printed (seen at *Silkomo*), in metallic inserts in big patterned jacquards or fine, end-on-end striped Lurex grounds as a base for overprinting (*Cavalleri*).

Florals printed and woven in jacquards and brocades, are rich for winter. Old fashioned flowers and leaves in deep browns and greens with a 1930s feel looked really good at *Erica*, which also had beautifully drawn and water coloured florals, ink penned in an old fashioned way. *Miroglio* has big brush stroke printed flowers, as well as in giant panel designs, contrasting with small geometrics and textured effects.

Ratti innovates with sumptuous designs in jacquards and prints. This season,

heavier print bases – suitable for coats and jackets - include a double faced fabric in wool/silk, printed on both sides, a spongy version which is overprinted, felted wool meltons as well as printed velvets and velours - and even printed knitwear. Ratti's *R-Collection*, aimed at mid market - is full of colourful and striking prints, including an aquatic city theme, cityscapes, and patchworked architectural motifs, alongside colourful animal skins, as well as many florals and kaleidoscope geometrics.

Conscious of sustainability issues, Ratti is introducing more eco-responsible fabrics and finishes - such as *Greenel* biodegradable and recyclable cellulosic and lyocell fabrics, as well as *Newlife* recycled polyester and regenerated nylons recovered from waste from fishing nets and swimsuit fabric – all used as print bases. Production processes are being rethought to enable the production of recyclable fabrics and PFC-free finishes.



Milano Unica, Ratti

Soft wools and tweeds There was a strong showing of wool in all weights and crossing seasons from the very finest veiling to full soft raised and brushed surfaces. On the heavier side, wools are bulky but light, as if filled with air in bouclé yarns, in double cloths and extra soft handle – seen at Faliero Sarti in fancy weaves and soft jerseys. Sarti's collection also includes shaggy knits, crinkled seersuckers in pure wool, a cotton/wool blend with a vintage look and vintage effect double cloths stuffed with bulky nylon.

Coat fabrics are even more extravagant in oversized weaves, big wool textures and stripes and fringes, such as at J. Tournier, created with big yarns, giant dogtooth in bouclés, or decorated with bouclé, fringes and trims, such as at Manteco. Felted effects also feature in wools and noble fibres, which might also be needle punched.



Première Vision Fabrics, J.Tournier

But wools are also both dense and fluid as well as being light and springy. Mens suitings are crossing into womenswear, such as classic Prince-of-Wales checks, which might be given treatment overprinted in splashy graphics or splattered with bleach. Tartans are popular with many mills reintroducing variations, including electric colour highlights of electric blue and acid green, which were being snapped up. Ethnic inspired patterns and details in jacquards and wovens are Tibetan inspired or, from the other side of the world, inspired by the patterns of South American Indians from Bolivia and Peru. Fluo colours brighten the colour palette of natural colours.



Première Vision Fabrics

Prime jerseys

Jerseys designed for tailoring, many of which imitate wovens, are well established. Noticeable is how many Italian wool

weavers now also offer wool jerseys – such as Lanificio Angelico and Loro Piana.

For winter, jerseys are milled and raised, bouclé surfaces are brushed for coatings, and double faced.

A unique, sophisticated and thoroughly versatile fabric is Eurojersey's 'Sensitive' branded warp knit, which can be made to suit different end uses. It can be used for day or night - for eveningwear with fluid drape, glittering with metallic, or velour effect with flocking and even a lace effect. Or, it can become a menswear fabric with urban elegance for tailoring or, again, a performing fabric for sports and leisurewear.

Made with absolute precision in production to achieve its high quality, in nylon microfibre, each stage is sensitive to each process. The fabric's versatility is created through clever surface treatment, which is always applied to the same fabric. Printing the surface is used to interpret 3D textured or embossed effects – such as wool flannels, tweeds or leather.

Eurojersey is moving further into the menswear market with classic worsted effect suitings, micro patterned weaves and sturdier country tweed effects including a Harris Tweed look. Camouflage prints are distinctive in shades borrowed from nature, or guided by a strong sense of colour in Madras checks, dogtooth and leather effects. Coatings and metallic foil prints team with resin finishes. New finishes include laser treatments, and a delavé effect. Bonding the fabrics creates reversible with different colour combinations, or with one printed layer against a plain. But whatever the surface effect it is always the same fabric underneath, and a supreme advantage is that it is washable.

Wool performs

Interest in wool fabrics with technical performance is growing – especially bonded layers sandwiching a membrane - which takes wool into the cross over product market, for casual and sports wear. Biella based Tollegno 1900, developing wool fabrics with performance for some years, has launched its 'Rainmaker' line of fabrics which are waterproof and windproof, which fit classic as well as more sporty styles for outerwear. Among these proposed, is a version made from a warm handling flannel, modified as a three-layered fabric through bonding - a bi-stretch wool cloth



Tollegno's 'Rainmaker'

is bonded to a polyurethane membrane, which is then bonded to a woollen fabric. This technique allows for an infinite number of combinations – and personalized opportunities – ranging from a traditional to a technical sporty look, such as where the wool backs to a viscose or nylon jersey in a bright colour making the fabric reversible.

The fabric is also treated with a water repellent treatment and some fabrics also have the all-important element of stretch for greater comfort and can be used in quite a new range of jackets, modern coats and unlined jackets.

'Sustainable' fibres and practices increase

As environmental awareness grows, consumers expect responsible retailers and brands to know their supply chains. To meet the demand, the industry is dedicating time and effort to find sustainable, transparent supply-chain solutions.

Recycling and the Circular Economy

A topic discussed at the *Smart Square* area at PV Paris, this season, was the 'circular economy' and what it means. Recycling plays a big part as a vital strategy for sustainable production in many forms and which, as a concept, contributes and enters into a 'circular economy'.

"The Circular economy" explained by Sven Hermann of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, "is an economic concept within the context of sustainable development, inspired by industrial ecology, where the waste from one industry is recycled as the raw material for

another industry or for itself.

"This economy works in a loop system, based on a "Take-Make-Dispose" model. It is a restorative economy, where the flow of materials are of two clearly distinct types: biological nutrients that can safely re-enter the biosphere, and technical inputs, designed for being recycled while maintaining a high standard of quality without entering the biosphere."

Biella based spinner Marchi & Fildi, buying into the circular economy, has developed its *Ecotec* collection of yarns, made from waste cotton taken from factories and recycled. The yarns are made in Italy in a traceable and certified process that turns pre-consumer, pre-dyed cotton waste, shredded from factory waste, into yarn. The waste is mixed with new cotton with a longer fibre.

Ecotec cotton yarns have been made into fabrics for the winter season by Italian companies including *Euromaglia* and *Tessuti & Tessuti*, and has also been used by renowned Finnish design company *Marimekko*, which looks constantly for sustainable materials.

Marchi & Fildi is broadening its range with the new *Phoenix* yarn – a mix of two certified raw materials, 100% GRS (Global Recycle Standard) - 50% *Ecotec*/50% recycled polyester. This yarn is available in a range of colours that do not need additional dyes, as it is made from pre-dyed polyester, in solid and mélange dyed yarn.

Another highly significant, recycled product is being made with recycled marine plastic waste to produce recycled polyester yarns. Branded *Seaqual*, the new fibre is made from up-cycled marine

plastic waste, collected with a deep commitment to removing waste polluting the oceans. The waste is dredged from the Mediterranean seabed, sorted into different categories, and distributed to interested parties.

Spanish company *Antex*, which makes filament polyester, is also making yarns from the recycled plastic. *Sequal* is available as continuous and discontinuous yarn and it can also be blended (according to *Sequal* certification criteria) with natural fibres such as BCI and organic cotton, Tencel, viscose, wool and linen – to retain *Oekotex* certification, which is important for consumers. Yarns can be dyed, woven or knitted.

Re.Verso, by A. Stelloni by Mapel, is the identifying trademark of another recycled product, based on wools and fine luxury fibres, made in Italy in a transparent supply chain system. The system re-engineers pre-consumer waste clippings of cashmere, wools and baby camel, supplied by the best Italian and international brands and producers of the fashion industry. First developed in partnership with Gucci, *Reverso* is currently being selected by the *Filippa K* Front Runners collection. It won the Design Challenge prize at the latest Copenhagen Fashion Summit for both its look and its transparent processes.

Supply chain Traceability E Miroglio, also focusing on sustainability, has a new yarn *Rewoolife*. This is a yarn made from an eco-friendly wool - chlorine free, mulesing free – blended with recycled polyester.

Botto Giuseppe, manufacturing yarns for over 140 years, is broadening its sustainability model in several ways. One, by using mulesing-free wool from New Zealand, branded *Aroha*, in its superfine wool and wool/cashmere collections. Another way is based on energy use – through efficient, energy saving electricity production by means of renewable sources and process. **Botto Giuseppe** yarns are manufactured in two factories – at Valle Mosso in Biella, and the Tarcento factory in Friuli. The latter already operates solely on *sustainable energy* - hydroelectric dam-generated energy and solar energy obtained from large expanses of photovoltaic panels fitted on the roof of the factory.

Lanfranchi (zips) is investing new technology especially with regard to