

A sense of place

The Craft the Leather workshop is not only about an excellent and iconic material, but also the understanding of how that material embodies the priorities of the community that produces it.

The experience nurtures the deep understanding that comes from full immersion in a social/economic/environmental context, powerful as it unfolds and enfolds us, and continues to reveal insights that mature over time.

Culture is the product of choices based on values.

The tanners of the Genuine Italian Vegetable Tanned Leather Consortium are based in the heart of Tuscany, area renown for the products of its well tended landscape- wine and olive oil, as well as the legacy of great Art and Architecture.

There is a strong commitment to stewardship of these great resources and to the continuation of the living heritage of artisan craft which impacts softly on the delicate natural balance of the territory.

It is of particular testimony to this fact that the tartufo (white truffle)- an extremely delicate and prized spontaneous product of the zone- thrives together with an industrial production of fine leathers.

This is possible only through the attention and commitment of the tanners and their community to create, support and invest in systems that minimize the environmental footprint by recycling, up-cycling, and purification at every stage of the process aiming toward a circular economy ideal.







Tokyo, Japan



Beauty of Nature

The theme of my collection is The Beauty of Nature. Through the Craft the Leather workshop I grew to understand that Vegtanned leather is not just a material for fashion goods. It is a crystallization of nature's art.

I took much time to think about the balance of natural modeling and handmade shoes.

Finally, I abstracted the parts of animals, bugs, and plants to combine them with shoe features. I attempt to use the characteristics of Veg-tanned leather to express three states of motion. These are stare, melt, and stretch. At the same time, I also try to show the vitality of my shoes through coloring.

Personally, I always think that elements of nature are the best way to highlight the beauty of Veg-tanned leather. Like I said at the beginning, these are not just three pairs of shoes.

文化服装学院 BUNKA FASHION COLLEGE



Bunka Fashion College Tokyo, Japan





 \mathcal{L}



The Tartufo Collection

The Tartufo Collection, a table, a stool and a bench, celebrates some of the intrinsic qualities of vegetable-tanned leather. The pieces explore an ancient chemical colouring technique in which a Vinegaroon liquid, white wine vinegar and steel, reacts with the tannin inside the leather.

Originally this 2000-year-old technique was used to dye leather black. However my experiments with subtle changes in the Vinegaroon concentration against the tanning recipe for the leather has resulted in a collection of unexpected colour variations. In addition to the leather, Vinegaroon reacts with oak wood too, to create a similar colouring effect unifying all elements of the design.

In the collection, leather is approached as a structural element. Grooves in the oak frames facilitate tension in the leather to create a pared back and tension held structure.





Central Saint Martins London, UK UK









Denmark

Kolding, i

Memories

The making of this collection has been inspired by the time, history and nature of the vegetable-tanned leather. In my research I was inspired by a quote saying: "My skin tells the story of my life because I'm the result of what I have lived". [http://www.pellealvegetale.it/en/stories/seneca/]

This led me to use the vegetable-tanned leather as a canvas for showing a personal history through jewelry.

Inspired by the tradition of the locket I developed a technique where I could transfer photographs onto the leather.

This resulted in a collection of memories as pendants that carries a personal history close to the body.







Anna Friberg

Designskolen Kolding Kolding, Denmark





Fashion Institute of Technology



- New York, NY, USA

A Study on Transformation

The process of vegetable-tanning is one of transformation. The first transformation takes place in the tannery, where raw materials become naked leathers. The next is by the designer, who adapts the leather and changes its identity. The final transformation is not man-made; instead, it is the leather's natural aging process.

This collection is my interpretation of this series of transformations. By combining the silhouettes of belts, footwear, and handbags, I mirrored the transformative quality of the leather with the physical transformation of one construction to another.

I hand-dyed my leather black with the intention of creating a blank canvas for the viewer. With the accessories presented as a metaphor, the viewer can develop an opinion about the functional, adaptable, and transformational qualities of vegetable-tanned leather.









Fashion Institute of Technology New York, NY, USA







Japan

Tokyo,

Hiko Mizuno College of Jewelry

Next Bespoke Shoes

The human foot has many features.

100 people have 100 unique pairs of feet.

I have considered this situation for a long time.

I wanted to propose shoes that fit perfectly using high-quality Veg-Tanned Leather. And as a challenge, I tried to design a pair of leather shoes based on sneakers, and not use any materials except Veg-Tanned Leather.

The shoe is made stretchable by cutting patterns in the Veg-Tanned Leather. The size of the sole can be adjusted because the sole is divided into modular pieces.

Wearing the shoes will shape them to a person's feet and change them into shoes uniquely for that wearer. They are new bespoke shoes for a new generation.

That is NEXT BESPOKE SHOES.

76AETKA ₩ % 5 Ł % ≅ € 5 T T E 9 E H I S 7 N 9





Takumi Yoshida

Hiko Mizuno College of Jewelry Tokyo, Japan









Germany

Bremen,

Bremen .

Hochschule für Künste

Fish story

The title of my project describes the result of mixing up two different cultural references, my personal Italian-Hungarian background with my current life as a student in Bremen, Northern Germany.

My aim was to let leather simulate classic textile characters and looks by using and respecting the material's own specific properties.

The result not only reflects an ironic representation of contradictions in the treatment of the material, in the usage of colours and the combination of garments, but also a hint of humour.



Hochschule für Künste University of the Arts Bremen



Daniel Pantaleo

Hochschule für Künste Bremen

Bremen, Germany











Madrid, Spain



Sherry wine has a real emotional attachment to its origin. Inspired by the characteristics of Sherry wine, its singular color, smell, taste, and aging, these unique pieces have no other use but for wine. Veg-tanned leather and wine share many properties, both evolve in the same way:

leather improves its beauty and emotional attachment, telling us a story over time as good wine improves with age- the more years, the better the taste.

Each piece has been colored naturally with sun tanning. The number of hours of tanning corresponds to the aging and color of the wine they reference. Oloroso has the longest and deepest sun tanning color corresponding to that wine. Traditional horse saddles inspire its buckles.

Amontillado - a wine cooler, is composed of twelve pieces of leather sewed together inspired by the wood strips that form the wine barrels.

Fino is the most delicate piece of the Jerez collection like the wine it references, reflected in its function, pale color and details like the buckles.





Madrid, Spain





Rhode Island School of Design



RI, USA

Providence,

Dolce far niente

My piece is an attempt to celebrate the quintessentially Italian 'ritual' of evenings spent sipping wine, lost in reverie, watching the sun set over the rolling fields of San Miniato.

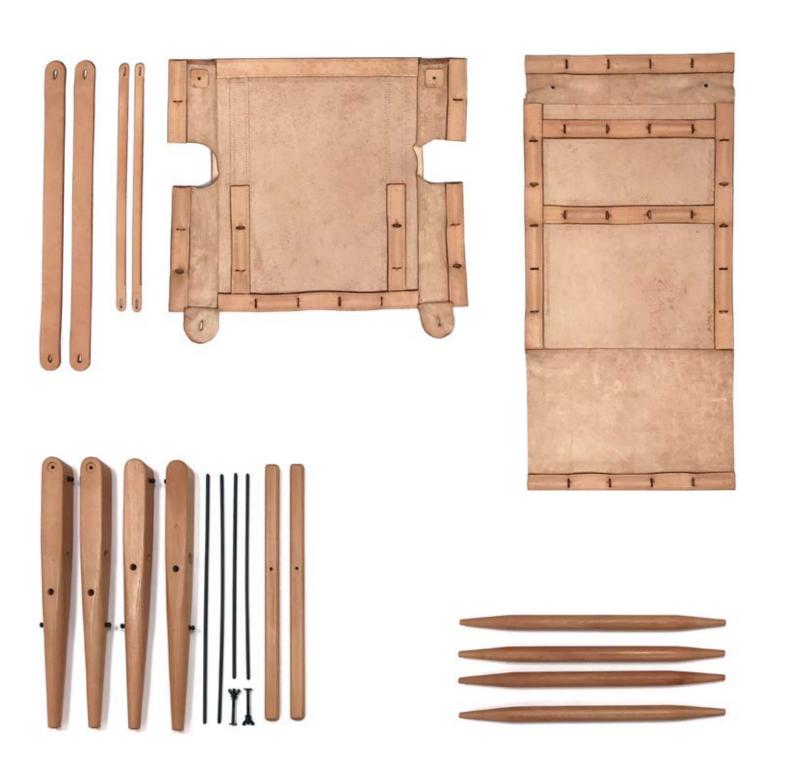
Borrowing origins from the Roorkhee Chair, developed by the British Colonials in India, redesigned later as the Safari Chair (Kaare Klint, 1933), I designed the chair as a dual object: a Tote bag- the sides and grips disassembling into the seat, back and armrests.

The chair starts life as a monochromatic pale cream, the beech matching the color of veg-tanned leather. The surface records time- age and use; sunlight, wrinkles, wine stains and grimy edges; taking on a rich deep brown patina, alive and unique like its owner.

P.S. - Package does not contain a bottle of wine ;)











The Wood Collection

The starting point for this collection was the work developed during the Craft the Leather workshop in San Miniato.

After experimenting with different techniques, I realized all my samples had a really strong similarity to wood, one of my favourite materials.

That likeness could be produced thanks to the fact that vegetable-tanned leather conserves its characteristic skin colour across its fibres.

Therefore, even when its surface has been dyed, the original colour can reappear if the surface is scratched or crafted. Accordingly, the inspiration for the design of the collection came from the idea of making the final products look like pieces of wood.









Royal College of Art London, UK









Aeon

As a collection Aeon finds its origins in the history and culture of Tuscany. I was inspired by the costumes of the Medici family found in paintings, the architecture of Firenze, and contemporary urban sneaker culture.

I love when design refers to the past but is meant for the future.

The art of leather craft has been settled in Tuscany for an immeasurably long period of time, like an Aeon. I wanted to operate in this dimension by using only leather and no other materials (except for glue).

I have used traditional techniques like lacing and moulding, combined with a contemporary sneaker design vocabulary to create something new. The result is intrinsic design and construction in veg-tanned leather.

As the most important lesson to be learned from "Craft The Leather" is that sustainability can't be like some sort of a moral sacrifice or political dilemma or a philantropical cause. It has to be a design challenge, comparable to the approach of the leather industry in Tuscany.







Chantal Maes

BE

SASK Stedelijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten Sint Niklaas, Belgium









Bunka Fashion College

Tokyo – Japan

A school that is a world leader of fashion Bunka Fashion College is a forerunner of fashion education in Japan. Knowing that it must produce powerful leaders for the fashion industry, the college has established four courses that follow all aspects of the industry. Among these courses, Fashion Accessories and Textile Department aims to teach expertise and skills that can respond to footwear, bag, millinery and jewelry industries' trends, and to develop human resources that can demonstrate creativity with imagination.

www.bunka-fc.ac.jp

Central Saint Martins - University of the Arts London

London – United Kingdom

MA Design; Furniture is part of the renowned 'by project' Masters in Design at Central Saint Martins where specialist students from jewellery, ceramics and furniture, design and innovate together. Course Alumni include Fernando Jorge, Gunjan Gupta, Alice Cicolini, Noor Fares and many others who are changing the face of the industry. Central Saint Martins, part of University of the Arts London (UAL), is internationally renowned for the creative energy of its students, staff and graduates with an exceptional reputation for educating foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate and research students in arts, design and performance. Alumni include Francesca Amfitheatrof, Emilia Clarke, Gilbert and George, Christopher Kane, Stella McCartney, and Alexander McQueen.

www.arts.ac.uk/csm/



文化服装学院

Designskolen Kolding

Kolding - Denmark

Design School Kolding builds on the tradition of Danish design, placing focus on design that is meaningful. We believe that innovation comes from relating to history and tradition. The school's approach is not to provide the answer, but to find the answer together. We build on knowledge and research and place emphasis on sensory perception and experimentation - a union of hand and spirit, head and hands. The program is an international talent workshop for Danish design. We work at eye level, believe in equality and respect diversity. Social inclusion, sustainability and cultural diversity are core values of the school and we work in fields of research, artistic development and knowledge from practice. Design School Kolding has university status and provides a framework for a number of recognized researchers in a young field of research as well as an increasing output of PhD projects.



www.designskolenkolding.dk

Fashion Institute of Technology

New York City, NY - USA

FIT's Accessories Design Program – the first of its kind in the U.S. – offers the Associate in Applied Science degree and the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, plus the country's only certificate programs in Millinery and Performance Athletic Footwear. Students learn how to design, construct, and produce a full range of accessories. Faculty members are industry professionals who teach the skills needed for success in the industry. FIT's Manhattan location provides unparalleled opportunities for real world experience through field trips, networking, industry-sponsored competitions, and internships at top accessories firms. The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), a college of the State University of New York, has been a leader in career education in art, design, business, and technology for 70 years.

www.fitnyc.edu



Hiko Mizuno College of Jewelry

Tokyo – Japan

Hiko Mizuno College of Jewelry is the only government authorized jewelry college in Japan. It has continued its journey as a college nurturing "making" and creative design techniques by establishing the Watch, Shoes, and Bag departments, and in 2012, the Tokyo College of Cycle Design. Hiko Mizuno has attracted global recognition as an academy of developing design fields. Our educational policy "Man & Object" informs all areas of study: the relationship of objects to the human body and all products are designed with a good understanding of the human structure. The pieces produced by the students can be considered art pieces as well as fashion/product designs directly related to contemporary life styles.

http://hikohiko.jp

Hochschule für Künste Bremen University of the Arts Bremen

Bremen - Germany

The University of the Arts Bremen is a place of learning and culture. Practice, tuition and research come together in a unique learning environment that unites art, music, design and science. This profile offers students a space in which to cultivate an individual and creative personality. The University promotes critical dialogue within an open and welcoming atmosphere that nurtures artistic curiosity and reflection.

www.hfk-bremen.de/en





IED Madrid

Madrid, Spain

Founded in 1966 by Francesco Morelli. For fifty years, the Istituto Europeo di Design has been operating in the fields of education and research in the disciplines of Design, Fashion, Visual communication and Management. IED is now an Italian international excellence, partnerships with international leading companies are an essential factor in its educational strategy and its training program is based on credits (CF) in accordance with the most advanced European institutions. As a school with an international vocation, the Instituto Europeo di Design welcomes students with different nationalities and cultures to all its 11 campuses: Milan, Turin, Rome, Florence, Venice, Cagliari, Como, Madrid, Barcelona, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro.



https://iedmadrid.com/

Rhode Island School of Design

Providence, RI – USA

The Rhode Island School of Design, RISD's mission, through its college and museum, is to educate its students and the public in the creation and appreciation of works of art and design, to discover and transmit knowledge and to make lasting contributions to a global society through critical thinking, scholarship, innovation and critical making.



www.risd.edu

Royal College Of Art

London - United Kingdom

Fashion at the RCA is facing forward, asking questions, looking to the new languages of bio materials, virtual identities, the debates and nuances about gender and economic shifts. This all adds to the excellence of line and craftsmanship as the skills required to establish new fashion design and new fashion business models. The Royal College of Art (RCA) is the world's number one art and design university (QS World University Rankings), and the only entirely postgraduate university devoted to research and knowledge exchange, teaching and practice in art, design, communication and humanities.



www.rca.ac.uk

SASK Academie voor Schone Kunsten

Sint-Niklaas, Belgium

The Academy of fine Arts at Sint-Niklaas, Belgium, is part of the part-time art education system in Belgium. Students attend courses on evenings and during weekends. The four-year shoe design program focuses on the dynamic between the artistic and craft aspects. Students are trained to analyse these different angles of approach and stimulated to push their boundaries. The program was set up to train shoe designers who are capable of using their creativity to design shoes and turn out prototypes. The department is very ambitious. By establishing contacts with other institutions, foreign schools, studios, workshops and the industry specialized in shoes, we create an environment where the students can fully develop themselves. The apotheosis of every academic year is a show, in collaboration with the fashion design department, where the designs of the students are shown to a mixed public of professionals and fashion lovers.



www.academiesintniklaas.be

Genuine Italian Vegetable Tanned Leather Consortium

The Genuine Italian Vegetable Tanned Leather Consortium was founded in 1994 by a small group of traditional Tuscan tanners. Today the consortium brings together 22 tanneries, all of which share the same production objectives and operate in Tuscany, in the area between Pisa and Florence. In the Tuscan Leather District high quality vegetable tanned leather is still produced according to an ancient production process which uses tannins extracted exclusively from tree barks and plants, the skills of master craftsmen and all the time necessary to create natural leathers which are perfect for any end use. The result of a knowledgeable combination of technology and tradition, the leathers produced by the members of the consortium satisfy the needs of a niche market in which not only high quality, but also style and individuality are fundamental requisites.

The aims of this no-profit organisation are to promote vegetable tanned leather, to safeguard a typical Tuscan product, to guarantee the quality of raw materials and processes used in its production and to highlight traditional techniques whose origins lie deep in Tuscan history. Yet the consortium also looks to the future with the organization of study activities, events on emerging trends, seminars and workshops for young designers and producers, guided tours of tanneries for students of fashion schools and the publication of materials about characteristics and quality of the leather.

The consortium acts as guarantor and ambassador of Tuscan excellence throughout the world, an undertaking it has consolidated with the creation of a quality label guaranteeing the quality and origin of leathers produced by its member tanneries. Presented as an elegantly scripted certificate of warranty, the Pelle Conciata al Vegetale in Toscana label is the property of the consortium and can only be used by its member tanneries which respect the Rules of Production and Technical Standards established by the consortium or, under license, by manufacturers who use leather produced by consortium members.

www.pellealvegetale.it



6th International Creative Competition for new designer/makers

Catalogue of the work inspired by the weeklong international workshop exploring the culture, tradition, and innovative possibilities of a product of local excellence: Tuscan Vegetable-tanned Leather.

Photo and Artwork: Key Image + Marketing

With special thanks to all of the community that makes Craft the Leather possible:

Mario Bemer, Domenico Castiello, Gustavo Defeo, Giorgio Testi,
Calzaturificio Buttero, Consorzio CuoioDepur, Pelletteria CI-VA, PO.TE.CO.,
the member tanners of the Consorzio, for their continuing support of this project
through the generous sharing of their time, experience, and of course, leathers
and all the staff at the Fondazione Conservatorio Santa Chiara in San Miniato.



Consorzio Vera Pelle Italiana Conciata al Vegetale
Via 1º Maggio, 82-84 - 56028 San Miniato - Pisa - Italia
Tel. +39 0571 485158 E-mail: info@pellealvegetale.it

Pellealvegetale.it