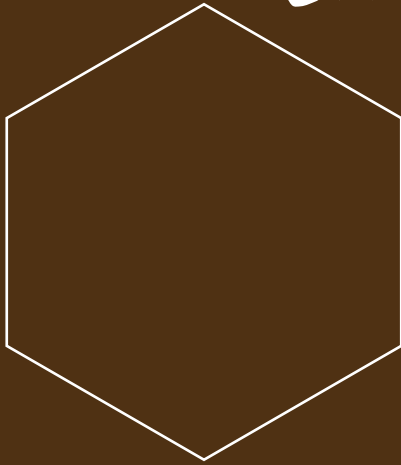


CRAFT THE LEATHER 2014







The Project

Introduction

Gianfranco Simoncini

Regional Councilor of Manufacturing,
Financing and Training, Tuscany



Promoting international competitiveness, growth in foreign markets, capacity for innovation and networking of SMEs: this is the strategic framework on which the Tuscan Region is concentrating all its efforts. This is also the core of the new EU integrated industrial policy “Europe 2020”.

At this stage, it is of utmost importance to stimulate the economic recovery and Tuscany wants to pay particular attention to those dynamic SMEs that have weathered the economic crisis, successfully maintaining their shares of world trade.

The Tuscan tanning sector enterprises perfectly fit this description. The Tanning District of Santa Croce sull’Arno has proven to be an economic driving force both nationally and internationally.

The reasons for this success can be found in a mixture of elements: first, the quality of their product, then the capacity for innovation of both product and process with respect to environmental sustainability and safety standards which places them on the cutting edge both in Europe and globally. Moreover, the Tuscan enterprises of this production chain have understood the value of Strength in Unity: that clusters and networks improve their competitiveness. Without a doubt this model of collaborative initiative needs to be consolidated, strengthened and promoted. The training of young people is essential to transmit skills from one generation to the next and avoid losing the cultural and professional patrimony that is synonymous with quality.

Craft The Leather is a project moving in the right direction, giving a chance to young designers, first to learn and then to express themselves and make their ideas concrete.

The Project

Diane Becker

Tutor of Project Craft the Leather



Across all disciplines there is an emerging new spirit motivating the creative class: a rediscovery of the deep satisfaction of “making”. Curious about age-old techniques, and well versed in the digital arts, new designers want to know through doing: experimenting, delving deep and cross-referencing in their work.

The opportunity to explore a material, (in our case Tuscan Vegetable-Tanned Leather) in all its aspects by experiencing full immersion in the life of the Leather District, is a rare adventure. Following the entire productive process from the tanneries to the state-of-the-art water purification plant, receiving in-depth knowledge of the quality control system and techno/eco certifications of leather at Po.Te.Co. (Tanning

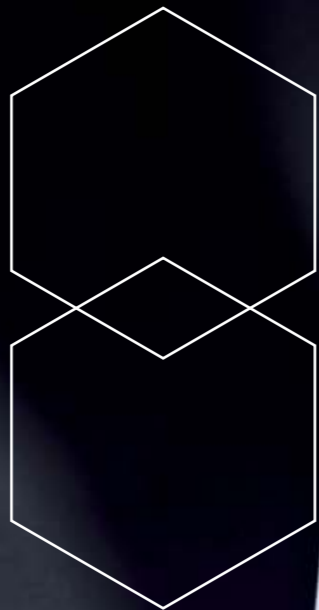
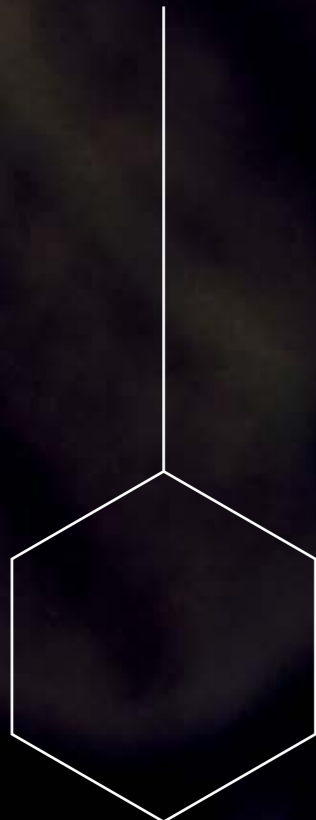
Technological Pole), we learned about the rigorous standards that the Consorzio Vera Pelle Italiana Conciata al Vegetale members follow and the many types of vegetable-tanned leather they produce. In first hand experience of industrial and artisan practices, we met so many of the people who work the leather, with true master classes led by generous and expert Tuscan leather craftsmen: Mario Berner for bespoke footwear and Stefano Parrini for leather goods.

The students and tutors from the ten prestigious international institutes of design were based in the serenely beautiful Conservatorio of Santa Chiara in San Miniato, sharing a global sense of community over meals of slow food and local wines.

And then they got to do what makers

love best of all: to work with a wide range of natural veg-tan leathers, traditional tools and finishing materials in a creative workshop whose aim was to investigate this material, to explore its distinctive characteristics.

Each designer partnered with a tannery and selected tanned, but not finished, leathers directly in the tannery. Back home at their schools, starting from this simple, untreated leather, each designer developed and made a collection of three personal accessories, using the unique properties of the material as the inspiration for design.



14 - 8:45

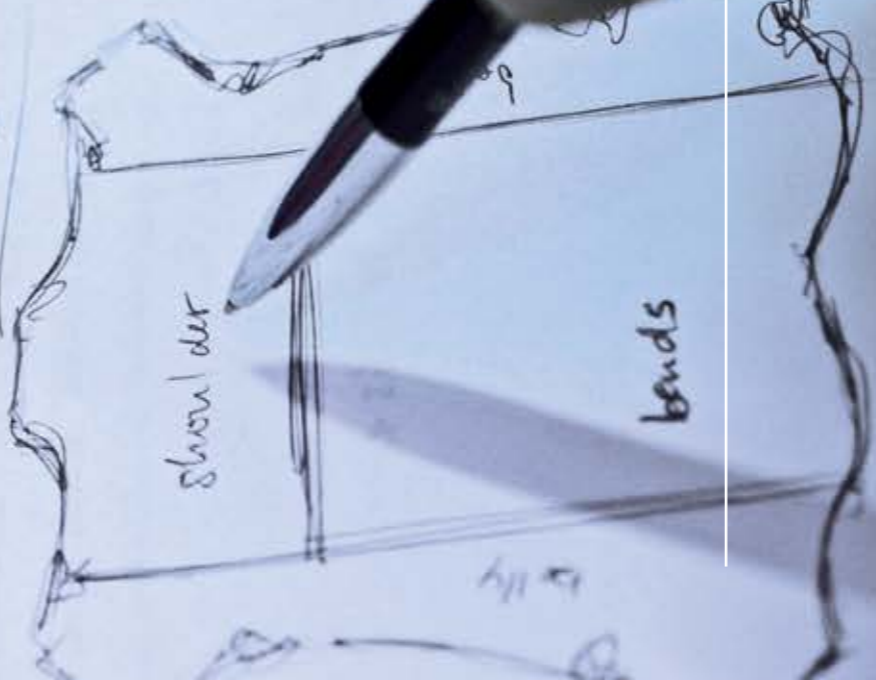
14 - CONCERIA VOLTPI

de Lederproduktion

Fun

Fun

RAW HIDE



show der

bands

The Schools

robant

20% Wasser

Protein

-3-

ArtEZ - Institute of the Arts

Arnhem - The Netherlands

ArtEZ Institute of the Arts

The ArtEZ Product Design Department values ambition, craftsmanship and know-how. Being a successful student to us means making the field of design your own, reinterpreting existing ideas and standards. We ask our students to foster an inquisitive attitude, a workshop mentality and a critical view of the world. Educating a new generation of designers is possible only in close cooperation with the field of professional design. We would not want it to be otherwise,

it makes our department energetic and enterprising. Our teachers work internationally, connecting a network to our department. All this makes Product Design Arnhem an educational node of expertise and diversity. Our network is extensive and includes collaborations with companies, so our students can develop a unique perspective on material and collaboration.

www.artez.nl

Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design



Jerusalem - Israel

The department of Jewelry and Fashion encourages multi-disciplinary thinking processes around the body while expanding the use of concepts and perception. The design of shoes and accessories at Bezalel is based on the "process" that synthesizes elements of research, theory, and history. This forms the basis for the design, with an emphasis on the traditional manner

in which the product is produced and constructed, all the while integrating the use of new materials and technologies that extend the morphological and functional boundaries of the field. "Practice" forms an integral part of the research process and emphasis is focused on "craftsmanship".

www.bezalel.ac.il

Bunka Fashion College

Tokyo - Japan

文化服装学院
BUNKA FASHION COLLEGE

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

Deutsche Schuhfachschule

Pirmasens - Germany



German College of Footwear Design and Technology.

The DSF is unique in Germany and one of the most prestigious schools in the world offering training in footwear design and technology. Our two-year training course enables our students to have successful careers in technical management and shoe design.

With modern equipment and a highly qualified team of teachers, the DSF provides students with an internationally

acclaimed training. During the whole training the focus lies on shoe/collection design and construction, production engineering, work and process management. In addition, material engineering, quality management and information technologies play an important role.

We have well-established links to the German footwear industry. This ensures a practical and true-to-life training.

www.deutsche-schuhfachschule.net

Fashion Institute of Technology

New York City, NY - USA



Fashion Institute of Technology

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. As a college nurturing "making" and creative design techniques, it has grown with the creation of the Watch, Shoe, and Bag departments, and in 2012, the Tokyo College Cycle Design.

We are very proud of having attracted global recognition, with numerous international programs, as an academy

of developing design fields. Our educational policy "Man & Object" informs all areas of study: all products are designed with a good understanding of the human structure and the relationship of objects to the body. 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>

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

College of Design

Kookmin University

Seoul - South Korea



Kookmin University is one of the leading private universities in Korea. Its educational goal is to foster and educate leaders who make a difference in the global community. Kookmin University provides students with opportunities to have academic, cultural, and professional worldwide experiences and an insight for the future. Designers of the 21st century are expected to create sustainable designs that resonate with the individuals in society.

At the same time, the designers need the ability to incorporate scientific technology with artistic visions in their creative work to keep current with the worldwide trends, and to maintain traditional and cultural relevance to the society. In this respect, College of Design at Kookmin University aims at providing the students with an established curriculum incorporating the spirit of time into design education.

<http://design.kookmin.ac.kr>

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

London College of Fashion - University of the Arts London

London - United Kingdom



Europe's largest specialist arts and design university, with close to 19,000 students from more than 100 countries. Established in 2004, University of the Arts London is a vibrant world centre for innovation, drawing together six colleges with international reputations in art, design, fashion, communication and performing arts including the London College of Fashion, which was founded in the early 20th century. The tradition of the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers is at the heart of the footwear and accessories courses.

Originally a prestigious school for shoemakers, the education has evolved over the past 125 years to accommodate new ideas and new needs. Today the BA (Hons) Cordwainers Fashion Bags and Accessories: Product Design and Innovation course is concerned with the design, development and realization of fashion bags and accessory products for the fashion accessories market through both traditional craftsmanship and modern technologies.

www.arts.ac.uk/fashion/



ArtEZ Institute of the Arts



HIRONO
COLLEGE
OF
JEWELRY

文化服装学院
BUNKA FASHION COLLEGE



FIT Fashion Institute of Technology





The Designers



Signe Eistorp Nielsen

Maria Canada

Roswitha Gritsch

Tessa Groenewoud

Anat Uziely

Fernando Webb

Natoshi Seki

Koyomi Yanagimoto

Young Hyun Kim

Louise De Groot

Maria Elena Canada

Born of Original Skin

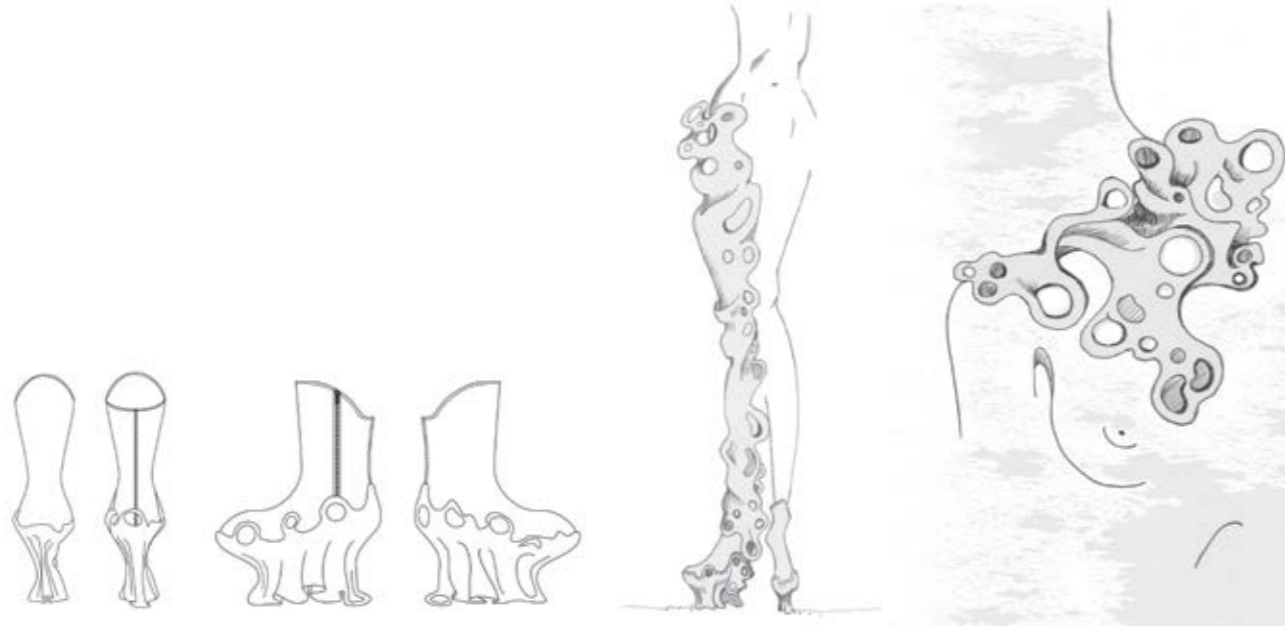


A note about self

I intrinsically work with my hands; it is a compulsion - ghosting residues of thought and time through the materials I choose. I seek to translate intangible narratives into contemplative moments creating paradoxical spaces. I am beckoning at our psychosocial behavior, bleached biology, perversion and sacredness. Craft is time equaling memory - and thus memory, tangible or otherwise, moves me forward in my artistic practice.

A note about skins

Skin as an object compels - it presents people with innate curiosity. Skin can also be an uncouth notion of symbolism - representing the passage of time or the tragedy of life and aging. I see skin as a surface treatment used to enforce barriers and to hide unwanted physicalities and psychologies; translucent, punctured, luminescent skins contain secrets: joy, politics, synthetic dreams, filth and dogma.



Anne Marika Verploegh Chassé

Teacher, Introduction to Shoemaking
Departments of Industrial Design and
Apparel Design
Rhode Island School of Design

I am a maker myself and I believe that through teaching the actual making and exploring of things with your hands, we encourage and nurture young critical designers/artists with a deeper knowledge and appreciation of materials, craftsmanship and an understanding of the impact of their creations on their environment.

Craft the Leather is an incredible opportunity for young designers/artists as well as their tutors, to immerse themselves in everything Tuscan Veg-Tan Leather, Italian culture, and together with peers from around the world to absorb, explore, appreciate, cultivate, collaborate and to carry it with them into their future designs and classrooms.

Maria Elena Canada

Born of Original Skin



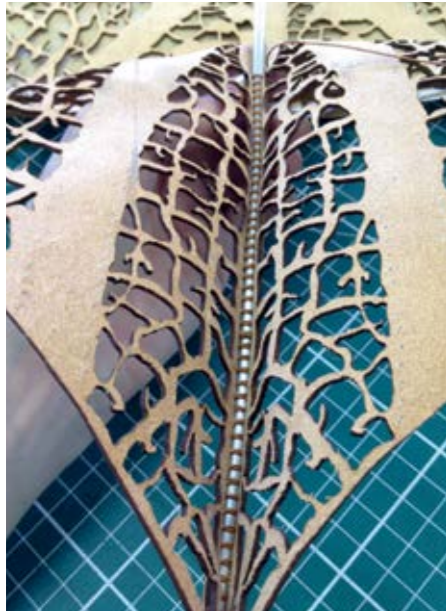
Louise De Groot

Crafting "Vegetal" with Technology



During my experience in Tuscany, I was impressed by the beauty of the panorama, and in the tanneries by the sense of community and the use of technology to recycle as much as possible to protect the environment. It is all about respect. My inspiration for this project is from this experience: Plants growing everywhere and their use in the process of tanning to transform a raw hide into a durable

material: a second life. My theme is *Crafting "Vegetal" with Technology*. It is a collection based on the development of plants: growing, maturing and drying. To make the collection, I used laser cutting technology for the organic aesthetic which I link with the technology used in tanning, and hand crafting techniques linked to the ancient knowledge of material transformation.



ual: university
of the arts
london
london college
of fashion

Lindsey Riley

LCF Course Leader
BA (Hons) Fashion Bags & Accessories:
Design and Development
London College of Fashion -
University of the Arts London

Craft the Leather 2014 was a fantastic experience for tutors and students alike, from all over the world, to learn first hand about the Tuscan vegetable-tanning leather industry and to share our love for design, craft and creativity. We now see veg-tan leather with fresh eyes, as a truly remarkable, sustainable and inspiring material that is certain to play a large part in literally moulding and shaping the future of leather product design. It is an honour to be a part of that process.

Louise De Groot

Crafting "Vegetal" with
Technology



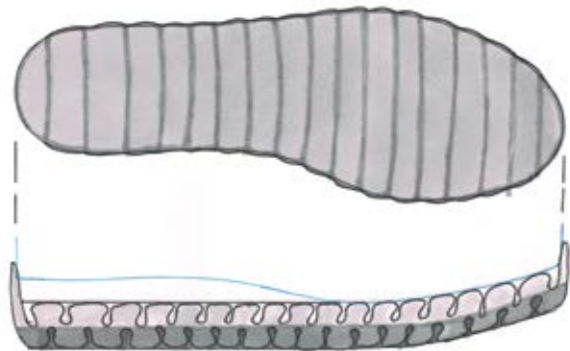
Roswitha Gritsch

The Daily Adventure



An athletic person, whose free time is in the fresh air exploring nature and enjoying wide-open spaces, needs a shoe for these activities. A wide strip of leather was perforated at a distance of 2.5 - 3.5 cm and then completely wet, making the leather supple and malleable. To get the leather into the desired wave pattern, a string was threaded through the holes then pulled to gather the

leather, forming the shape. After drying and removing the cord, the leather strip kept its form and could be glued on the lasted shoe and dipped halfway into liquid yellow rubber. The rubber dried forming a slip-resistant sole. A sporty person always has stuff to carry around so a matching rucksack was also half covered in red liquid rubber.



Martin Thorenz

Teacher

Footwear Technology and Design
Deutsche Schuhfachschule

The DSF is very proud to have been offered the chance of participating in CTL 2014. It was an amazing experience for both - student and teacher - to get deeper insights in the field of vegetable-tanned leather. In a highly creative international atmosphere, students and teachers from all over the world spent together one week, talking, discussing, learning from each other from morning to night. The combination of factory visits, lectures and workshops organized in the quiet and impressive building of the former convent of Santa Chiara made this whole week an unforgettable event.

Roswitha Gritsch

The Daily Adventure



Tessa Groenewoud

Spatial Shapes



Through pressure, memory and compression the material transforms into a different shape, and clasps around the foot. These form changes inspire the imagination of the wearer about how the shoes can be used, and also shows new perspectives of what leather can do. The upper part of the shoe consists of a one-piece pattern without lining depending only on the strength of the leather. Using a laser technique to obtain

dynamic patterns that work with the leather, the shape and prints re-shape when the shoe is being used and transformed. I use the natural and original colors of the leather to show the origin of the material. I hope to keep on exploring the world of material research where the laboratory comes in as a playground between natural materials, crafts, low tech and new applications.



ArtEZ Institute of the Arts

Klaartje Martens

Lecturer, Accessories & Design Process
Product Design Department
ArtEZ - Institute of the Arts

For three years we have had the opportunity to join Craft the Leather and experience this excellent platform for students not only to build up their explorations with craft and industry but also to connect with an international group of students and tutors from all over the world. For the participants this made a lasting impression. As a department we really value the opportunity to connect both with the material, and the regional and international passion for the material leather. Craft the Leather has had a great impact on our students' development.

Tessa Groenewoud

Spatial Shapes



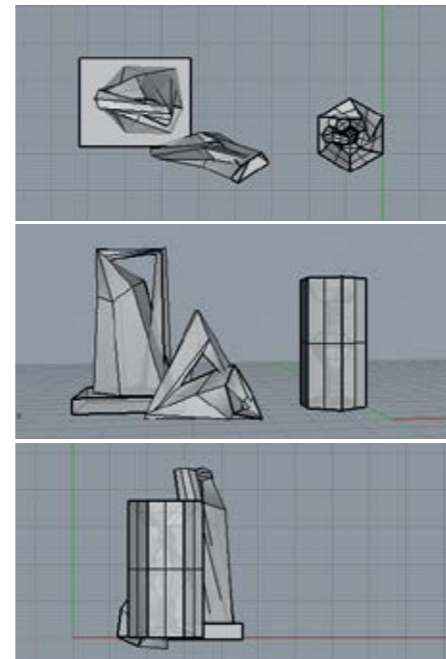
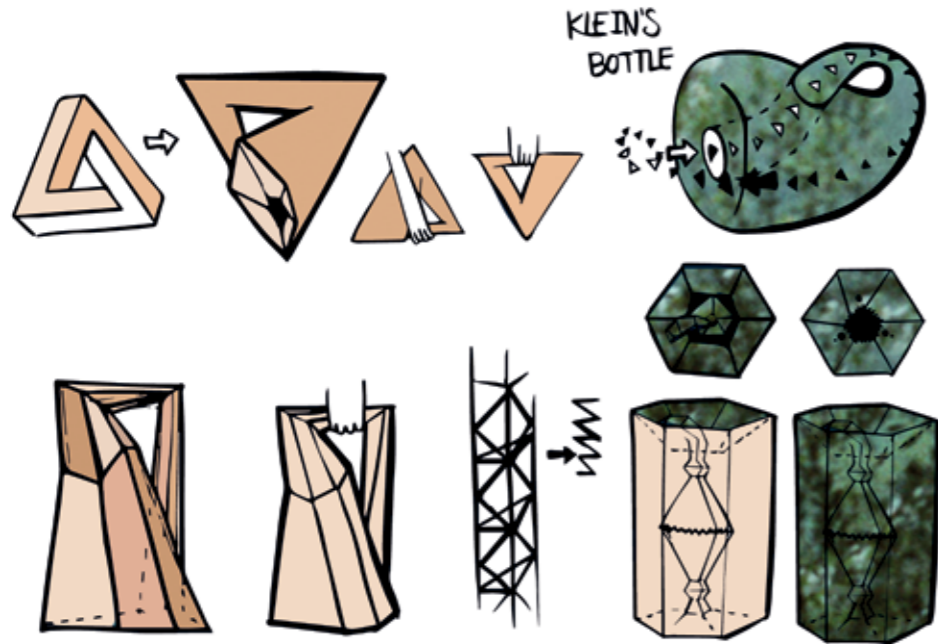
Young Hyun Kim

The Infinite



In Italy, it was interesting to me how past, present and future could coexist in the infinite time space. This helped me to visualize an image of the Mobius band, and the "Klein bottle" (a closed surface with only one side, formed by passing

one end of a tube through the side of the tube and joining it to the other end). This 3-dimensional figure of the Mobius band, was set as the motive of this project. In order to express this, I have created an object and two bags.



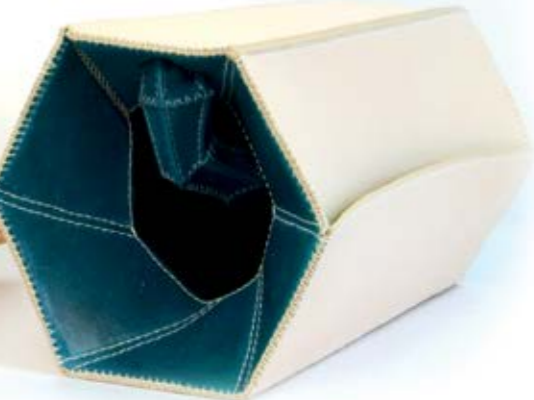
Juhee Park

Associate Professor
Department of Fashion Design
Kookmin University College of Design

It is of high importance in education, to gain the experience of every step in the process of material production as an inspirational source. Though leather is a fabulous raw material for garments and accessories in fashion, access to this material has been somewhat limited due to its peculiar process in sourcing and manufacturing systems. Thankfully, CTL provided this opportunity to the future designers and educators. The workshop has a great meaning to me as an educator, because it was about vegetable-tanned leather and environmental issues. It was quite timely since the designer's responsibility is becoming increasingly important.

Young Hyun Kim

The Infinite



Signe Eistorp Nielsen

Gym Class Essentials



I have a great interest in sportswear and footwear. This passion of mine characterizes my work with design. I always focus on combining my knowledge of materials with a sporty expression. My project for Craft the Leather 2014 is called *Gym Class Essentials*. In this

project I have combined the elegance of leather with more casual and sporty designs. I have taken inspiration from iconic designs, all known from the world of sports. The result of my work is a collection of accessories. The three items I have redesigned are: the visor, the gym bag and the flip-flops.



Richard Lehner
Workshop Manager
Education and Research Department
Designskolen Kolding

Meaningful design, sensory perception, experimentation and collaboration... in this way it has been a great experience for our student and tutor to attend the workshop of Craft the Leather. We have acquired skills and knowledge about the qualities and sustainable approach of vegetable-tanned leather. It is important for us to be part of creating design solutions for a sustainable future.

Signe Eistorp Nielsen

Gym Class Essentials



Naotoshi Seki

The Pursuit of Value



Theme

During my visit to Italy, the environmentally conscious manufacturing impressed me. It made me think how this is an important value there. At first, value is a fluid word and different people have different values. I believe this led me to the direction of my theme; *The Pursuit of Value*, to connect design with mankind and society.

Concept

Although being Japanese with not a high level of English ability, I participated in Craft the Leather workshop in Italy.

Expression, onomatopoeia and atmosphere became our common language. I felt the value of invisible sound and frequency as a language. I thought that sound is a common property of mankind as well as an essential element in terms of human relations.

I attempted to visualize "the sound" making use of the characteristics of vegetable-tanned leather with some built-in speakers in these bags. I expressed this fundamental universal value.



文化服装学院
BUNKA FASHION COLLEGE

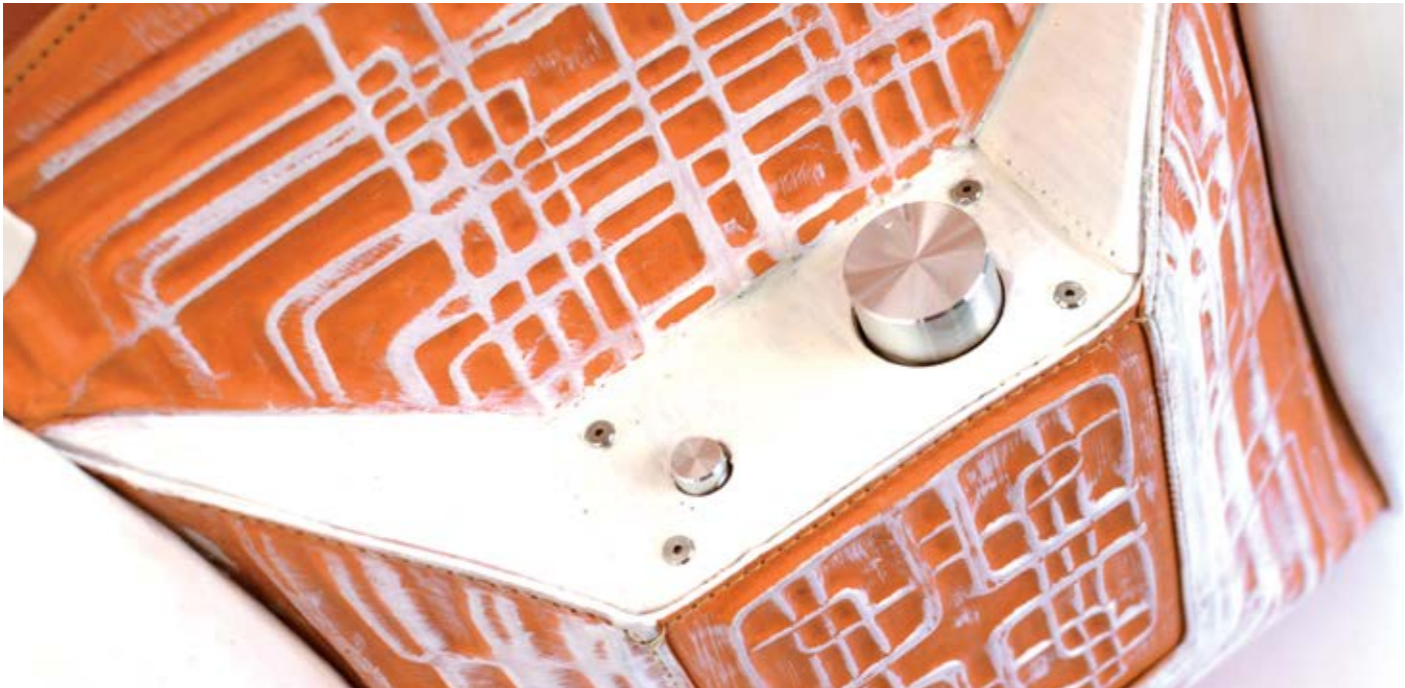
Midori Tanaka

Teacher, Footwear Design Course
Fashion Accessories and Textiles Dept.
Bunka Fashion College

Although students of this department visit Japanese tanners, bag and shoe makers' ateliers as part of their course, it was very meaningful to learn about the commitment to the environment and quality in Toscana. Our Bag Design Course student who participated in this project was very impressed by the spirited artisans in Toscana and the amazing vegetable-tanned leather produced there. His experience in Italy, lectures and workshops with students and teachers from all over the world, gave him lots of inspiration for his collection.

Naotoshi Seki

The Pursuit of Value



Anat Uziely

Timeless Links



I was exploring the boundaries of the veg-tanned leather through my collection. The combination of advanced technology laser cutting with traditional handcraft methods allowed me to create 100% leather connectors, inspired by the bicycle chain, that function in various ways. The project celebrates

the diversity that the veg-tanned leather holds within. The pieces are inspired by a wide range of artifacts from different cultures and time periods. The project features a surprising contrast since it has a nostalgic aspect and an innovative aspect at the same time.



Eliora Lemmer Ginsburg

Senior Lecturer
Head of the Accessories track
Department of Jewelry and Fashion,
Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design

The CTL workshop embodied an invaluable, experiential and intimate framework for exploring methods of instruction, as well as exchanging and imparting knowledge and impressions with colleagues from around the world - both in technical aspects and ways for teaching "practice". As such the CTL initiative provided professional depth to interactions between the student and the teacher in the form of "apprenticeship", which I believe to be the "right path".

Anat Uziely

Timeless Links



Fernando Scott Webb

La Gustosa Vita



La Gustosa Vita is a picnic collection inspired by the landscapes and foods of Tuscany. While in San Miniato, I was surrounded by some of the most enchanting, rolling countryside that I have seen. The whole time I felt as if I were in a painting. Perhaps what was even more delightful was the food culture of the area. I was immersed in a heritage of care and attention to food: truly an eminent preoccupation. As I sat there

looking out over the gardens at Santa Chiara I imagined strolling through the orchards, picnic in hand, and settling under a tree with a view of the valley below; food and wine in hand, I would sit in the company of companions enjoying our laughter and the sweeping sunset. *La Gustosa Vita* encourages all to pack up provisions, gather friends and family and get outside to enjoy life and its delectable moments.



Vasilios Christofilakos

Professor, Accessories Design Dept.
School of Art and Design
Fashion Institute of Technology

As an educator, and former chairman of the Accessories Design Department, working in the best industry ever, my job is to be able to impart my knowledge of design, colors, trends and materials, especially leathers to a group of people who I know will make their mark on my industry. My classroom is where the magic begins. They begin to understand how to work with leather while still respecting its natural characteristics. Craft the Leather adds the layer to the global design experience; that's when the magic becomes intense.

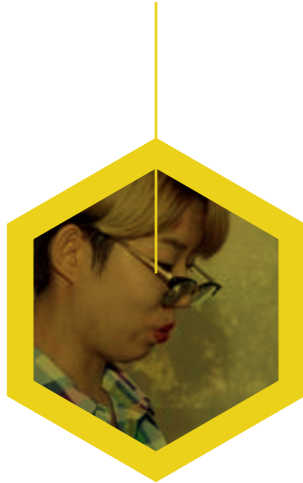
Fernando Scott Webb

La Gustosa Vita



Koyomi Yanagimoto

Kabuto



Life and Death is the theme for my creation.
Strong survival power.
Mental conflict of life.
Landing in perfect bliss.
I made this collection *Kabuto*, which is based on the Japanese traditional head armor that represents the General's identity from the age of civil war.

We call this helmet *Kabuto*.
Combining this tradition with Buddhist thought became my inspiration.
I think that we must approach the sorrow of death with a forward looking, positive and constructive point of view.
I believe living life with this attitude allows us to feel powerful, to acquire confidence and to become a strong being.



H I K O
M I Z U N O
C O L L E G E
O F
J E W E L R Y

Atsunori Murase

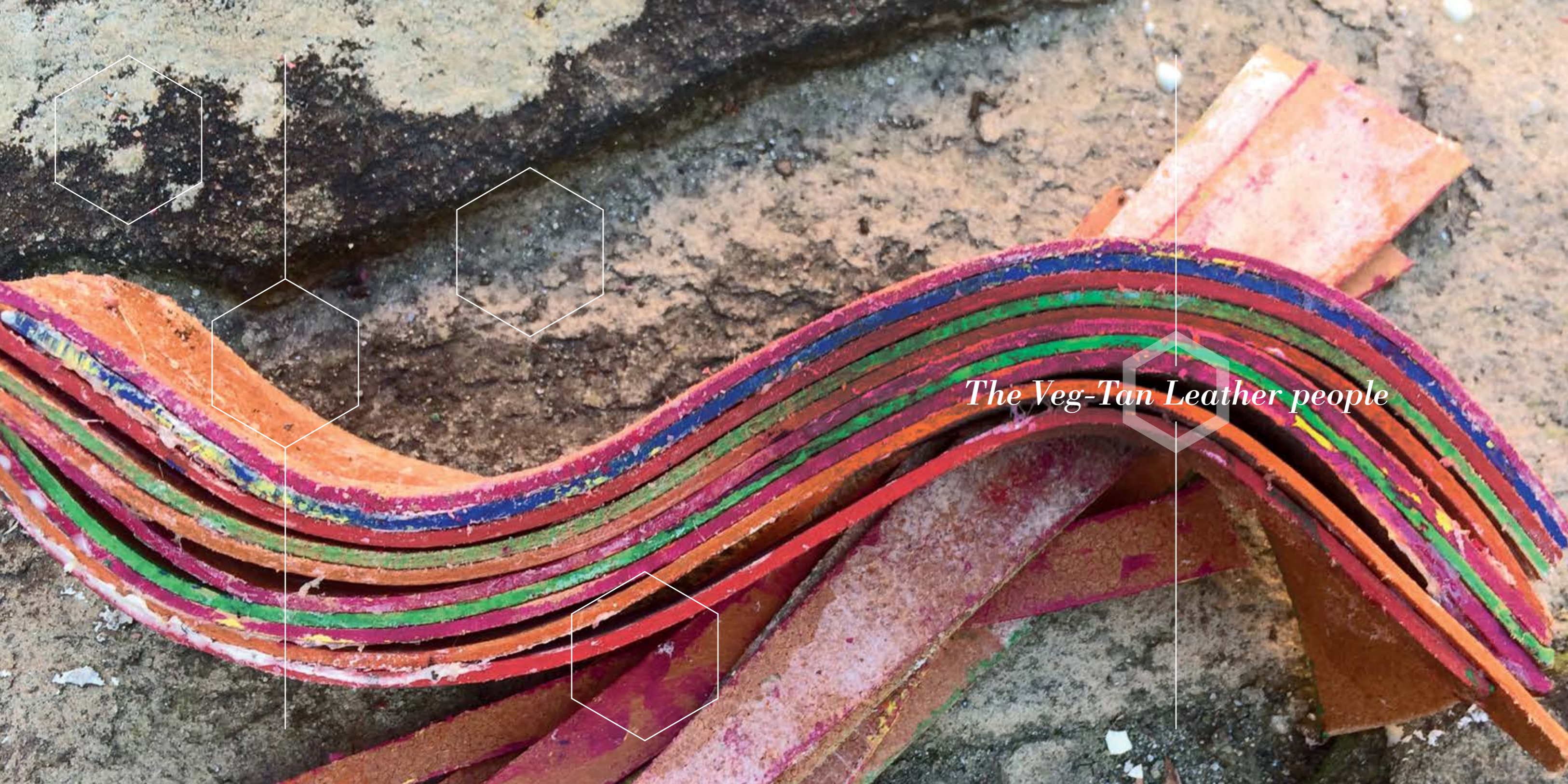
Senior Course Director
Department of Jewelry, Shoes & Bag
Hiko Mizuno College of Jewelry

Craft the Leather workshop was a useful program that is very significant and practical for students. Although it was the very first time for our student to know and even to touch vegetable-tanned leather, she was totally impressed and influenced by the deep history and possibilities of this material. After this workshop, she experimented repeatedly and created a lot of prototypes for her new accessories using the vegetable-tanned leather, and she discovered a strong new material to express her creative identity. I believe that she gained a global point of view through this experience.

Koyomi Yanagimoto

Kabuto





The Veg-Tan Leather people

Tanneries

Artigiano del Cuoio srl

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Tel. +39 0571 497228 - Fax 499592
www.artigiano.it
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Badalassi Carlo srl

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Conceria 800 spa

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conceria800@conceria800.it

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Conceria Italpel srl

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www.valdarno.it
info@valdarno.it

Montana spa

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Tempesti spa

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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 includes 23 tanneries, all operating in Tuscany, in the area between Pisa and Florence, and sharing the same standards of production. In the Tuscan Leather District, high quality vegetable-tanned leather is still produced according to an ancient method. The expertise of master craftsmen, using tannins extracted exclusively from tree bark and plants and all the time necessary, creates natural leathers that are perfect for a wide variety of end use. By the skillful combination of technology and tradition, the members of the consortium produce leathers that satisfy the demands of a niche market where not only high quality, but also style

and individuality are fundamental. The mission of this non-profit organization is: 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: sponsoring research, organizing events and seminars on emerging trends, and holding workshops for young designers, makers and producers. Students from fashion and design institutes are given guided tours of the tanneries, and information is published exploring the characteristics and quality of the leather. The consortium acts as guarantor and ambassador of Tuscan excellence

throughout the world. It has consolidated this position with the creation of a trademark guaranteeing the quality, origin and traceability 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 that 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**

Colophon

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.

Documentation and video of the
workshop by IED Firenze.

Still-life photography by Sarah Sellars
and Troy Nachtigall



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