

Interconnected DESIGN THINKING Brief

Weissensee Kunsthochschule Design Students	Textiles Environment Design Research CCW, University of the Arts London
Date: 9 th & 10 th April 2010	Materials Mapping
	Project: Preparatory Research Assignment

The theme of the project is the exploration and interconnection of materials and eco design concepts to propose design strategies for product development. In preparation for a series of design activities through workshop interactions from 12th-16th April, you are asked to produce 3 x A4 format sheet presentations on your selected **case study of materials-based design**.

You are first asked to individually investigate case studies from the following suggested themes. You should look for a wide range of design companies that use materials relevant to these themes in different ways. With particular reference to your selected case study, the project presents an opportunity to identify and describe current practice and/or long established practice in this area.

In each case you will need to:

- Decide on a definition of the chosen theme (e.g. For 'A. Local' is this your neighbourhood or is this Berlin?)
- Use a variety of search strategies to survey the field (e.g. company searches via location, materials, processes etc. Internet/local press/word of mouth/trade associations)
- Select the case studies that reveal the most diverse information about the theme
- Collect a sample of the material your case study is based on, and attach a cutting of it to the A4 sheet
- Identify and describe in-depth the selected companies (from individual designer-makers to multi nationals)

- A. **Local** - (Your neighbourhood or your city?)
- B. **Organic** - (Does this mean it has certification?)
- C. **Recycled** and **Upcycled** - (What is the difference?)
- D. **Technical** - (Is this the material or the process?)
- E. **Fair / Ethical** - (How has this been assessed?)
- F. **Careful Colour** - (How would you define this?)

Evidence - 3 x A4 sheets completed by you, and presented by you to the group at the workshop. A range of examples which demonstrate the theme. Evidence of in-depth description of materials and processes involved in your selected companies. Appropriate communication of the information.

Aims:

- To provide an opportunity to build a collection of real samples and current information relevant to the materials and processes involved in design development.
- To demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the context of materials and processes to design thinking.
- To work as part of a cross-disciplinary team and present the outcomes.
- To work to a professional standard when challenged with the presentation of information to a short deadline.

Research Source Examples:

Fraunhofer	www.fraunhofer.de/en/research-topics/materials-components	Materials research organisation based in Berlin
Materials World	www.iom3.org/content/materials-world	Magazine published by the Institute for Materials, Minerals and Mining (UK)
Material Connexion	www.materialconnexion.com	MATTER magazine, published by Material Connexion
MADE	www.iom3.org/content/made	Materials and Design Exchange, UK
Rematerialise	http://extranet.kingston.ac.uk/rematerialise	Sustainable materials resource at Kingston University. Open by appointment.
Transmaterial	http://transmaterial.net	Website with materials information
Material Lab	www.material-lab.co.uk	Materials outlet in central London
Materio	www.materio.com	Materials outlet in Paris, Brussels and Barcelona
Materia	www.materia.nl	Materials outlet in Amsterdam

hp	www.hp.com	HP Eco solutions
Treehugger	www.treehugger.com	Eco Magazine
If hamburg	www.ifdesign.de	Design directory
Repository	www.repository.tudelft.nl	Material considerations
Chris Lefteri	www.chrislefteri.com	Sustainable products
Pre	www.pre.nl/ecodesign	Guidelines and Tools
Ecotextile News	www.ecotextilenews.com	Eco Magazine
Glaobal sources	www.globalsources.com	Sourcing Production
Alibaba	www.alibaba.com	Sourcing Production



Materials Mapping

Circle the theme you have selected for this case study sheet: A. Local; B. Organic; C. Recycled and Upcycled; D. Technical; E. Fair / Ethical; F. Careful Colour; G. Other

Your **definition** of the chosen theme _____

Name of the case study / designer / company _____

Address of the case study / designer / company _____

Website address of the case study / designer / company _____

Brief biography of the case study / designer / company _____

Description of the material and product / range (include source / origin of material and manufacturing details) _____

Special features / treatments / applications developed by the case study _____

Price range of the material and product / range _____

Stockists of the material and product / range _____



Your name _____