

A Sustainable Marriage

Abdul Hoque, Lesley Campbell and Jane Blohm (ACES)



Overview

The project aims to use the skills and knowledge of MSc Engineering students and Level 4/5 BA Fashion students, re-examine the notion of 'throwaway fashion', and promote a new concept in clothing using dissolvable fabric, as a metaphor and as a vehicle. As the garment dissolves it will transform into something else.

By bringing together the skills of the Engineering students working with Polymers and other biodegradable/bio compostable innovative materials and the Fashion student's skills of design, pattern cutting and garment manufacture the aim is to produce the 'Ultimate Wedding Gown'. Several copies of the gown will be produced each at a different dissolvable stage.



Current Progress:

- Had series of meetings with all parties: students, staffs and industrial supporters
- Planned work breakdown structure: Handmade cushions with different shapes for wedding dress, with 2D and 3D shapes incorporation and multicoloured cushions
- Secured exhibition space to promote work
- Fashion students and staff have visited MERI and Engineering workshops
- MSc students and staff have visited Fashion Workshops, seminars on enterprise innovation and design and technology show

What's going well:

- Both student cohorts have carried out intensive research and experimentation on dissolvable clear polymer materials
- Seal testing of materials
- Making of Cushions
- Colour testing and paint evaluations
- Laser cutting
- Sublimation printing
- Machine embroidery

What's not going well:

- Initial lack of motivation by fashion students when offered as an optional project; however this has now been resolved by incorporating the initiative within Fashion Interaction and Meaning Module.
- Difficult to manage and plan group activities when convenient to both student cohorts
- Technical effectiveness in sealing technology for cushions

Future Plans:

- Level 7 Engineering students working on polymer joining issues for the dress
- Level 4 Fashion students to develop design concepts for silhouette, commencing early February
- Both student cohorts will commence manufacture of the 6 prototype wedding dresses early March
- Exhibition of work in Furnival Gallery 6th-16th May 2010
- Participate in CETL conference in June 2010



Support Needs:

- Professional photography for exhibition
- Recording student progress via multi media
- Installation of exhibition
- Marketing and promotion for exhibition
- Advice on evaluation from CPLA
- Technical support related to specialist techniques

Contact: Abdul Hoque - A.Hoque@shu.ac.uk
Lesley Campbell - Lesley.Campbell@shu.ac.uk