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#### NATURALLY DYED

More spinners are offering small ranges of naturally dyed yarns. **Tintoria Quaregna**, which has spent some years researching to achieve the dyeing of production quantities of yarn or fibre with natural dyes, has developed a method of making an infusion from plants, which has no need for a mordant. Another method is to use coloured pigments extracted from flowers, leaves, berries, roots, barks and insect secretion.

Spinner **Cariaggi**, which pioneered natural dyes on cashmere, has increased the number of colours offered in its *Systema Naturae* collection of naturally dyed cashmere. **Papi Fabio** also has a range of natural dyes on cashmere including infusions from walnut, poppy, pomegranate, and cochineal, while **Lineapiu** has a range of naturally dyed organic cottons. **Todd & Duncan** has 'eco' cashmere, which is dyed with low impact dyeing, GOTS approved standards.

#### UPCYCLING TEXTILES: ADDING VALUE THROUGH DESIGN

Driven by the need to lessen waste and landfill, 'up-cycling' or reusing materials through design intervention is being researched as a serious design solution and being implemented in a number of different commercial ways. All of which was discussed and described at a recent symposium of the same title at **Chelsea College of Art and Design**.

Among those seriously producing products from recycled materials is the clothing label *From Somewhere*, designed by a passionate advocate of recycling, **Orsola De Castro**, and made from pre-consumer waste, fabrics that are left over or abandoned by manufacturers. Another label, *Emmeline 4RE*, is designed by **Emmeline Child**, who has been working with the Salvation Army, and testing out her ideas in Top Shop. **Cyndi Rhodes**, with label *Worn Again*, has been recycling trainers with new/old fabrics, in association with shoe manufacturer Clarks. These are currently being produced in factories in China and Portugal, though she wants to bring production closer to home.

Clearly, recycling is already being explored in many different product sectors. But, there are many issues for research, not least of which is where the material for recycling comes from and whether to use pre-consumer waste or post-consumer. A hazard in using post-consumer waste products is establishing what the fibres are, where they came from and possible health issues.

An event, organised as part of a three-year project *Ever and Again: Rethinking Recycled Textiles* by **Rebecca Early**, Reader in Textiles Environment Design (TED) at Chelsea college of Art & Design, highlighted the artistic, practical and commercial potential of recycling. The project has been investigating textile recycling, looking to textile design practitioners to propose significant change through the creation of high quality artefacts using contemporary eco-design theory and exploring the use of engineering technologies.

#### ECO-INSULATION

The focus on the need for sustainable production is encouraging manufacturers to really look at their processing, right down to the wadding used in thermal jackets, as well as household products. Italian insulation specialist, **Thermore**, which makes wadding used by sports wear labels such as Adidas, Nike and Sprayway, has already put great efforts into using sustainable raw materials, such as Tencel and Ingeo.

Thermore has now developed a new insulation material *Rinnova*, which is based on recycled polyester, on the basis that the recycling of PET plastic bottles uses less energy than virgin polyester. To illustrate the point, Thermore claim that six plastic bottles go into the wadding of one jacket, thereby reducing waste, as well as energy. This is also a solution in preparation for the time when oil becomes 'unaffordable'.

#### ECO-BALANCING CUPRO

*Cupro* (or cupramonium), a regenerated cellulosic fibre (similar to viscose, but made from cotton linters) appears to be coming back into favour again and is highlighted by Japanese **Asahi Kasei** for its natural and eco friendly properties. With a luxurious handle and seen as a replacement for many silk qualities, Cupro is used for its comfortable feel, its soft smoothness on the skin and

inherent moisture control. It has a good silky drape and flow for outerwear, is cool in summer and is antistatic, making it suitable for linings and underwear.

While its origins are drawn from naturally grown materials, it is nevertheless exposed to chemicals in the regeneration stages,

