Fashion Design

Reviewed by Victoria Cooke, George Spencer Technology College, Nottingham

This 192-page paperback book aims to give students a thorough grounding of the principles of fashion design. It describes the skills and knowledge needed to become a fashion designer and covers a broad range of areas. It is particularly aimed at those students aspiring to go further in the field of fashion design and gives useful insight into preparing portfolios and what to expect at interviews.

The book is split into 7 sections:

• Context
• From Manufacture to Market
• The Body
• Colour and Fabric
• In the Studio
• The Brief
• The Final Collection – and beyond.

Each chapter is concisely laid out and presented in a logical manner, combining a good balance of easy to read text and images, many in full colour. The index is easy to use and contains up to date textile terminology, there is also a glossary of terms and a section covering useful relevant addresses.

The book is packed with lots of up to date interesting information covering a diverse range of fashion related topics. The 'Context' chapter covers a brief history of fashion as well the relationship of fashion to the media. 'Manufacture to Market' examines the history of manufacture, types of production and different retail outlets. 'The Body' looks at different methods of drawing and illustration including the principles of fashion design. 'Colour and Fabric' considers choice of colours, weaves, finishes and fabric suppliers. 'In the Studio' covers pattern drafting, toiles, fittings and finishings. 'The Brief' looks at types of commercial briefs as well as inspiration and costing, and 'The Final Collection' deals mainly with preparing for fashion shows and how to compile a CV.

The book would be a good resource for Key Stage 5 textiles students as it provides up to date information about the world of fashion design. However some chapters in the book are also useful for the more theoretical aspects of Key Stage 4 particularly the section 'Manufacture to Market'. Other pages of the book, which could be beneficial for all secondary pupils, include a fashion calendar and cycle laid out in a diagrammatic form, which could form the basis of a good discussion topic. There is also an informative and concise fashion history time line. Some good body templates could be used to inspire students with their design work, and the book is full of inspiring fashion photographs.

I certainly feel that the book will be of benefit to Key Stage 5 students who are intending to apply to higher education in fashion as it gives a greater insight into this field particularly in preparation for interviews. I am sure that it is a book that both my students and I will use as an up to date fashion reference. It would also be a good resource for those who only have a basic knowledge of textile industry and wish to widen their expertise. At £19.95 in my opinion it is good value as a one-off reference book. However I can see that in a few years time the book will seem dated and will perhaps not be such a useful teaching resource.

Fashion Design
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Appropriate Content	✔✔✔	**Generic Use**
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Teacher Resource	✔✔✔✔	**Photocopiable**
Visuals	✔✔✔✔	**Pupil/student activities**
Overall Style	✔✔✔	**Cross-curricular**