

## Eurotex ID

### A Multidisciplinary collaboration to enhance the EUROpean TEXtile Identity

#### An overview on the first Study Visit in Terrassa

“This first Study Visit of the program represented a challenge for the CDMT. Before the event, we set ourselves three main objectives: first, to provide the students from the Escola Cenatex (Portugal) and the Winchester School (UK) with first-hand experience of examples of the heritage they had studied in the data base; second, to enable them to get to know each other, as the Study Visits are the only time in the program when they have the chance to meet; and third, to create the ideal atmosphere for their ‘immersion’ in the historical and cultural context of the textile sector in Terrassa and Catalonia, and to make it a memorable experience.

**Over two days of intensive work**, the students got to know the CDMT, visited the National Museum of Science and Technology, and discovered three institutions which are all representative of Terrassa, although in very different ways: the CTF Technological Innovation Centre, the Weavers’ Cooperative, and the dyestuffs firm Herederos de Salvador Segura.



- The National Museum of Science and Technology of Catalonia is housed in the old Aymerich, Amat i Jover factory, a modernist building dating from 1907 and designed by the architect Lluís Muncunill. Originally a wool textile factory where all the stages in the production process were carried out, since 1984 the building has been the home of the museum.
- The CTF Technological Innovation Centre is an institution at the service of industry. It works in close cooperation with companies, experimenting with and developing new textile structures and intelligent technical applications.
- The Weavers’ Cooperative has been in operation since 1983 to produce textiles for the home using exclusively artisanal processes and the best raw materials, in order to promote the social and professional skills of people with learning difficulties, people with special abilities which the handlooms turn into artisans.
- The firm Herederos de Salvador Segura, founded in 1890, is a key reference point in wool dyeing. Today it also works with other fibres and mixtures, either raw or spun; one of its specialities is *vigoureux* printing.

On the second day, the students presented and discussed their initial ideas for the projects that they will carry out as part of Eurotex ID. **The CDMT staff were pleased to see that certain elements of our heritage have begun to evolve into new designs.** We also held an informal workshop in which the students were able to ask questions, share their concerns and listen to the impressions of the designer Pere Moliné, one of the most respected experts in the area of colour and texture, a consultant for many Catalan and Spanish firms, and a habitual contributor to *Première Vision*.

As a whole, the Study Visit was a very positive experience for everyone, and an excellent start to the Eurotex ID project as we set out to fulfil its objectives.”

*Eulalia Morral, Director of CDMT Terrassa*

“Participation in EUROTEX ID has enabled Winchester School of Art to extend its education, employability and student experience mission.

To gain maximum impact the new project was launched to 130 second year degree students, with a six week lecture and workshop series based on the Eurotex ID database: this new visual tool assembles images, case notes, technical information industry and museum archival material,



introducing to students a networked education & research resource on the textile history in the Prato and Terrassa regions.

Clio Padovani, academic project leader, prepared students for the Terrassa study trip with lectures and workshops that included the recovery and role of local knowledge and history, globalization, the role of nostalgia in contemporary design. 110 undergraduates worked on 10 inspiration samples accessed on the database.

The final 3 students who best interpreted the theme of heritage were:

Claire Mantell, Textile Design, specializing in weave. Her approach is influenced by art-deco, clean lines and repeat structures, interpreted in bold contrasting colours.

Freya Perrett, Textile Design, specializing in Print, is producing block prints, floral shapes with subdued colours, recreating heritage patterns as large scale interpretations of original motifs.

Naomi Sapsford, Textile Design, specializing in Print. Her approach is to create a narrative textile, where stitched textures of ribbon and fabric are overlaid with text and rose motifs from the database.

The Terrassa visit offered students **valuable and unique**

**learning experiences: feedback on artwork from a professional designer; first hand access to museum sample book collections and expertise; networking with other students, educators and museum professionals.** Most importantly, glimpses into the small textile industries of a region, which highlighted the synthesis of technological and traditional knowledge, ethical enterprise and product design."



*Clio Padovani, Project Coordinator WSA University of Southampton*

**During the first study visit to Terrassa, the students had the opportunity to meet the project partners, especially the three colleagues of Winchester School of Arts and enter to the spirit of the project, which allowed them to get familiar with the aims and working methods.**

The study visit to the CDMT – centre de Documentació i Museu Textil was of great importance since they had the opportunity to see some of the samples that are on the database. They have also referred that they found the Teixidors Company interesting, not only because of the products they produced, but also because of their project Idea, of having as employees people with special needs.

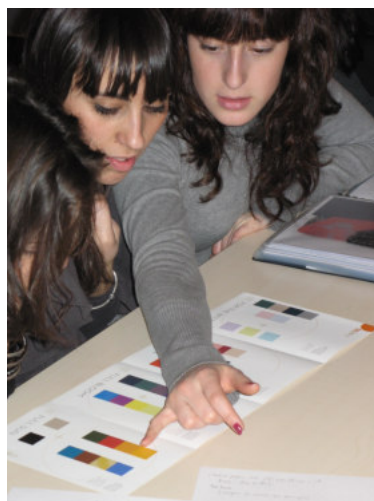
After returning from the study visits, the students were more motivated to develop their creative work, and started working and developing their themes and collections, based on the textiles they have selected from the Database.

Here some comments from the students:

Vanessa de Freitas: "EUROTEX ID. Is being a great opportunity for us to contact with other cultures and lifestyles, as well as become aware of what other countries do in the textile Industry."

Julian Cunha: "The Study visits have been my first experiences abroad and I confess that I loved it, not only because I was able to meet new people and cultures but also because I will be able to contribute with my creative work for the development of this Project. I am looking forward for the final exhibition, where I will be able to share my collection and garments with others."

Isaura Ribeiro "The Eurotex ID project is being a great experience; it has given me the opportunity to meet new people, places and Cultures, and above all the opportunity to contact with professionals of the world of



Textiles and fashion, who are contributing for my professional growing up."



*Cláudia Amaro, Project Coordinator Escola Profissional Cenatex*