



RD4

An Alternative Approach



All designs by Debra Laraman
laraman@ihug.co.nz

Jade Laraman Photography & Design.
Email: jadekendra49@hotmail.com

The fashion and textile industry employs over one sixth of the worlds population and subsequently has a huge impact on the environment, and health and well being of millions of people. Consumers and communities around the world (including here in New Zealand) feel the effect of fast fashion, as cheap prices have encouraged us to buy more and we no longer understand the true value of clothing, which was once a treasured possession and is now viewed as a throwaway item.

New Zealand Charity stores estimate 40-80% of textile donations are of such poor quality they are unsalable, and are sent to landfill, the Pacific islands or turned into rags. In 2006, 4% of our total landfill was textiles (equivalent to 31.5kg per person), however this figure is expected to have risen dramatically as the U.K. have reported textiles account for 30% of landfill which has risen from 7% over the last 5 years.



T - S H I R T

Water - it takes 2,700 litres of water to make one t-shirt, which is enough water for one person to drink for 900 days.

Cotton- uses 22.5% of the world's insecticides and 10% of all pesticides, on 2.5% of the world's agricultural land.

White dress – made from 5 x discarded t-shirts; deemed unsalable by a charity store are transformed into a stylish and comfortable dress.



Dress made from 5 t-shirts deemed unsaleable by the thrift store.



Evolving Design: The white t-shirt dress is further transformed, giving it another life.





Re-Assemble: Design for re-design requires consideration at the initial design phase, of how a product can be reused in the future. These designs have been created through experimentation with repositioning existing garments to form a new design.





ENVIRONMENTAL

Issue: The global textile industry discharges 40,000 – 50,000 tons of dye into the water system and Europe discharges 200,000 tons of salt”(Cambridge University, Well Dressed report)

Process

These beautiful patterns have been created from the environment, using leaves, bark and ferns in a method called bundle dyeing which I learnt from India Flint. These patterns tell a story through the imprint of the leaves which will fade with time, reflecting the ever changing cycle of life.



MERINO DRESS : ECO DYED.



Zero waste Eco Dyed: Garment created from a rectangle of merino fabric. Eco dyed using only leaves collected from the designers property. An unusual sleeve feature is achieved through the placement of stitching, reminiscent of a Kimono style.



Pillows & Scarfs





PROCESS OF ECO DYEING

Images show the bundle of fabric ready to be infused with the colours of nature, the copper pot and the fire pit where it is cooked and the unwrapping and anticipation of the design created.





SILK DRESS : ECO DYED.

A comfortable, multi sized garment created with zero waste.





MENSWEAR

Men's clothing can be a valuable resource as it is often made from higher quality materials than women's wear and the larger sizes provide a good quantity of material. Men's business shirts are often made from a cotton/polyester blend which is comfortable, long lasting and requires minimal ironing, however the blended fabric is difficult to recycle as the fibres cannot be separated and the polyester does not break down in landfill.



SHIRT SKIRT :

Made from a variety of mens shirts, this garment can be adjusted using internal ties to create drape or short and lengthen the hemline.



Re-assembled: Two men's shirts are re-positioned to create a draped jacket, the garments remain in tact and can be separated again and reused in the future.





**Re-fashioned.
Zero Waste.**

The outfit is created from 2 Men's shirts. The collars and sleeves become a bolero and the body of the shirts are used to create a wrap skirt that can be worn multiple ways .

Instructions available.



Re-positioned: Two women's denim shirts become a draped jacket. Items remain intact to disassemble at a later date and transform again.







Re-Fashioned: Sleeveless top with hook and eye closure, created from long sleeve womens shirt, with the cuffs reattached at the front hemline.





RE-FABRICATED

These items are created from strips of discarded clothing and materials. This process allows even the smallest, poor quality and damaged fabrics to be given a new life. These accessories created from rubbish, can transform a basic outfit into something special.







Pre-Consumer Waste

Pre-Consumer Waste is waste created in the manufacturing process of products. If you have ever sewn a garment yourself you will realise not all the fabric can be used and the unused materials can account for up to 30% of the original fabric, this is the same for the manufacturing industry. So for every garment made there is an unseen waste stream.

Consumption

In the U.K. it is estimated women are buying approximately half their weight (62lbs) of clothing each year. It is estimated that 30 billion pounds worth of unworn clothes is lingering in closets and not worn. New Zealand may be similar, as we are now spending more on apparel and footwear than we did a decade ago and as prices have gone down we are just buying more.

Chemicals

New Zealand tests discovered formaldehyde levels in some Chinese clothes exports up to 900 times higher than the prescribed safety limit,

Yet formaldehyde, a highly toxic, colourless gas, has been linked to skin irritation and allergic reactions and classified as a human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.



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