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THE INTEGRATION OF 3D DESIGN AND BIOCOLORING IN SUSTAINABLE FASHION DESIGN

IROVAN Marcela[1], RARU Aliona[1], FLOREA-BURDUJA Elena[1], BUJOREAN Tatiana[1], ETCU Elena[1]

[1] Technical University of Moldova, Faculty of Design, 4 Sergiu Radautan Street, Chisinau MD-2019, Republic of Moldova

Corresponding author: Irovan Marcela, E-mail: marcela.irovan@dtt.utm.md

Abstract: *The contemporary fashion industry is undergoing a transition toward sustainable practices due to the negative environmental impact of conventional textiles. This article explores the integration of sustainability in fashion design through the use of 3D design and natural biocoloring, highlighting the benefits of these technologies in reducing waste and utilizing eco-friendly resources. 3D design is revolutionizing the creative process by eliminating the need for multiple physical prototypes, thereby reducing material and energy consumption. Digital technologies enable the optimization of models and design testing before final production, significantly minimizing textile waste. Biocoloring, as an alternative to conventional dyeing methods, uses natural pigments extracted from renewable sources, offering a non-toxic and environmentally friendly process. This technique promotes the aesthetic uniqueness of fabrics and enhances product durability. Studies on bio-dyes demonstrate color stability and a reduced impact on ecosystems. The combination of 3D design and natural biocoloring provides an innovative solution for the development of sustainable collections, contributing to pollution reduction and the advancement of a more responsible fashion industry. This article analyzes the potential for integrating these technologies and their impact on the future of fashion design.*

Key words: *sustainability, 3D design, biocoloring, fashion design*

1. INTRODUCTION

The fashion industry is facing major challenges regarding its environmental impact, being one of the most polluting industries globally. Traditional textile production processes involve intensive water consumption, the use of toxic chemicals, and the generation of significant amounts of waste. Against this backdrop, sustainability in fashion has become a critical goal, leading researchers and designers to explore innovative solutions to reduce the ecological footprint.

One fundamental direction is the use of eco-friendly and biodegradable materials. The choice of sustainable natural fibers such as organic cotton, linen, hemp, or bamboo is becoming increasingly popular, replacing polluting synthetic materials. Innovative textiles are also being developed, such as biomaterials, vegan leather made from mushroom mycelium, or silk created through biological synthesis. These alternatives offer environmentally friendly solutions, reducing pollution and excessive resource consumption. [1] Another essential aspect is the integration of digital technologies into the design process. 3D design is revolutionizing the way fashion collections are created, allowing for material optimization and waste elimination. Additionally, zero-waste

patterns and modular clothing contribute to waste reduction, offering adaptable and sustainable products. [2, 3]

Biocoloring and eco-dyeing represent innovative alternatives to conventional textile coloring methods. Replacing toxic chemicals with natural pigments derived from plants, fungi, and bacteria enables the creation of vibrant colors without harmful environmental effects. Moreover, modern dyeing technologies reduce water usage and eliminate toxic emissions [4].

The circular economy plays a key role in the transition to sustainability. The concept of circular fashion involves reusing, repairing, and recycling garments, thereby extending product lifespans. Increasingly, brands are adopting initiatives to collect used clothing, transforming old materials into new fabrics and promoting responsible consumption [5].

At the same time, there is a growing focus on ethical and transparent production. Respecting the rights of textile industry workers and increasing supply chain transparency are key elements of a fair production system. Blockchain technologies allow material traceability, giving consumers clear information about the origin and impact of the clothes they purchase. In contrast to the fast fashion phenomenon, which encourages excessive consumption and mass production, the slow fashion movement promotes the creation of durable collections with timeless design. Garments made from high-quality materials, produced in limited quantities, offer a sustainable alternative, reducing textile waste and encouraging a conscious lifestyle [6].

The purpose of this article is to present the results of a research study on the creation of a fashion product using a combination of 3D design and biocoloring. Additionally, it analyzes the benefits of combining these two technologies and highlights their potential in redefining standards within the fashion industry. The study proposes an interdisciplinary approach, exploring how 3D design and biocoloring can transform the clothing production process both ecologically and aesthetically. By integrating these practices, the fashion industry can become more responsible, reducing pollution and promoting sustainable solutions for the future.

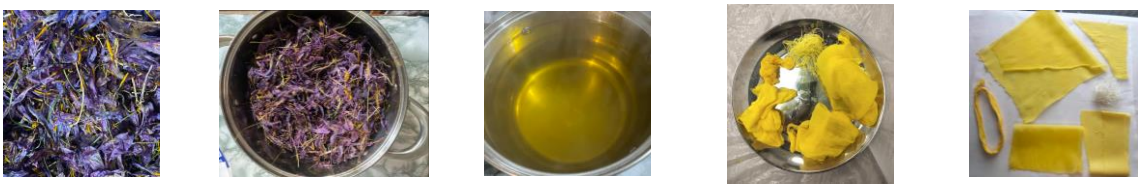
2. 3D DESIGN AND BIOCOLORING IN FASHION DESIGN

Among the most promising directions are the adoption of 3D design and the use of natural biocoloring. 3D design allows for the optimization of the creative process by eliminating the need for multiple physical prototypes, thus reducing material consumption. This technology facilitates the virtual development of models, giving designers the opportunity to test and adjust garments in a digital environment before production. Through this method, textile waste is minimized, production time is shortened, and resource usage is optimized.

In parallel, biocoloring represents a sustainable alternative to conventional textile dyeing, which is responsible for polluting numerous aquatic ecosystems. Traditional dyeing techniques involve harsh chemicals and excessive water usage. In contrast, biocoloring uses natural pigments extracted from plants, fungi, and microorganisms, offering an ecological and non-toxic solution. These methods not only reduce environmental impact but also add aesthetic and cultural value to fashion products. The combination of 3D design and biocoloring opens new perspectives for sustainability in the fashion industry. This integration enables the creation of innovative, functional, and aesthetically appealing collections with a reduced environmental footprint. Digital design reduces resource consumption in the prototyping phase, while biocoloring ensures an environmentally friendly dyeing process.

3. PRACTICAL RESULTS REGARDING THE COMBINATION OF 3D DESIGN AND BIOCOLORING

The experimental research focused on testing and validating the combination of 3D design and natural biocoloring, with the aim of demonstrating their applicability in creating a sustainable fashion product. Initially, a natural dye was selected to be used for coloring the fabric intended for the product model. Saffron was chosen due to its unique properties, offering vibrant shades of yellow and orange associated with elegance and refinement. Moreover, saffron is a sustainable dye, extracted from a renewable resource, aligning with the principles of zero-waste design and sustainability. Figure 1 presents images from the saffron collection and preparation process for dyeing, including the solution obtained and used for this purpose. Also shown are the fabric samples dyed with saffron, including the final ones.



a b c d e

Fig. 1: *a,b,c - preparation of the saffron and the saffron solution; c,d - results of saffron dyeing*

The dyed fabric was manually embellished using techniques characteristic of traditional Romanian folk costumes (fig.2).

Fig. 2: *Handcrafting the ornamentation on the textile material*

Using 3D prototyping technologies, the construction of the garment was developed without generating waste, optimizing both its shape and capacity through a precise digital process. Then, the scanned images of the colored and hand-decorated elements, the final model of the garment was defined, integrating the aesthetic details directly into the digital design, without requiring additional physical samples. This allowed the testing and adjustment of visual elements before actual production, eliminating material waste and reducing the impact on the environment. Thus, the result reflects the balance between innovation and ecological responsibility, combining technological precision with the authenticity of sustainable materials (fig. 3).

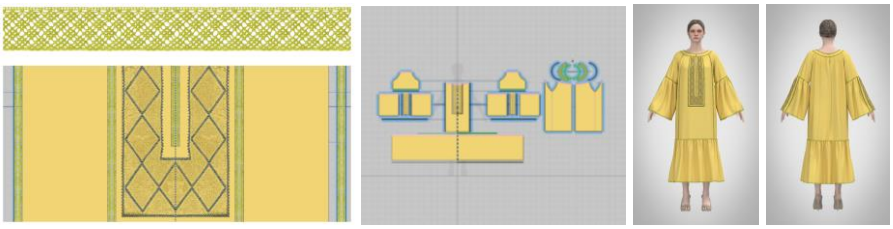


Fig. 3: *Use of 3D prototyping software*

4. CONCLUSIONS

The integration of 3D design and biocoloring in the fashion industry brings significant benefits, both ecologically and technologically, namely:

- Reduction of textile waste – 3D design eliminates the need for multiple physical samples, allowing for the digital testing and adjustment of products before production. This minimizes material waste and optimizes resource consumption.

- Efficiency in the design process – 3D technology accelerates the development of fashion products, enabling designers to quickly experiment with shapes, textures, and colors. This contributes to reducing production time and associated costs.

- Eco-friendly dyeing without toxic chemicals – Biocoloring uses natural pigments from plants and microorganisms, eliminating the use of synthetic, polluting dyes. This method reduces water consumption and the negative impact on ecosystems.

- Creation of unique and authentic products – The use of natural pigments not only protects the environment but also gives each fashion piece a distinct aesthetic and cultural value. Thus, biocoloring adds originality to fashion collections.

- Promotion of a sustainable production model – By combining these technologies, the fashion industry can adopt a circular production system based on waste reduction and the use of renewable resources. This contributes to the development of responsible fashion.

Thus, 3D design and biocoloring not only optimize the creative process but also set a new standard in the fashion industry. The adoption of these technologies represents an essential step toward sustainable, efficient, and innovative fashion production.

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