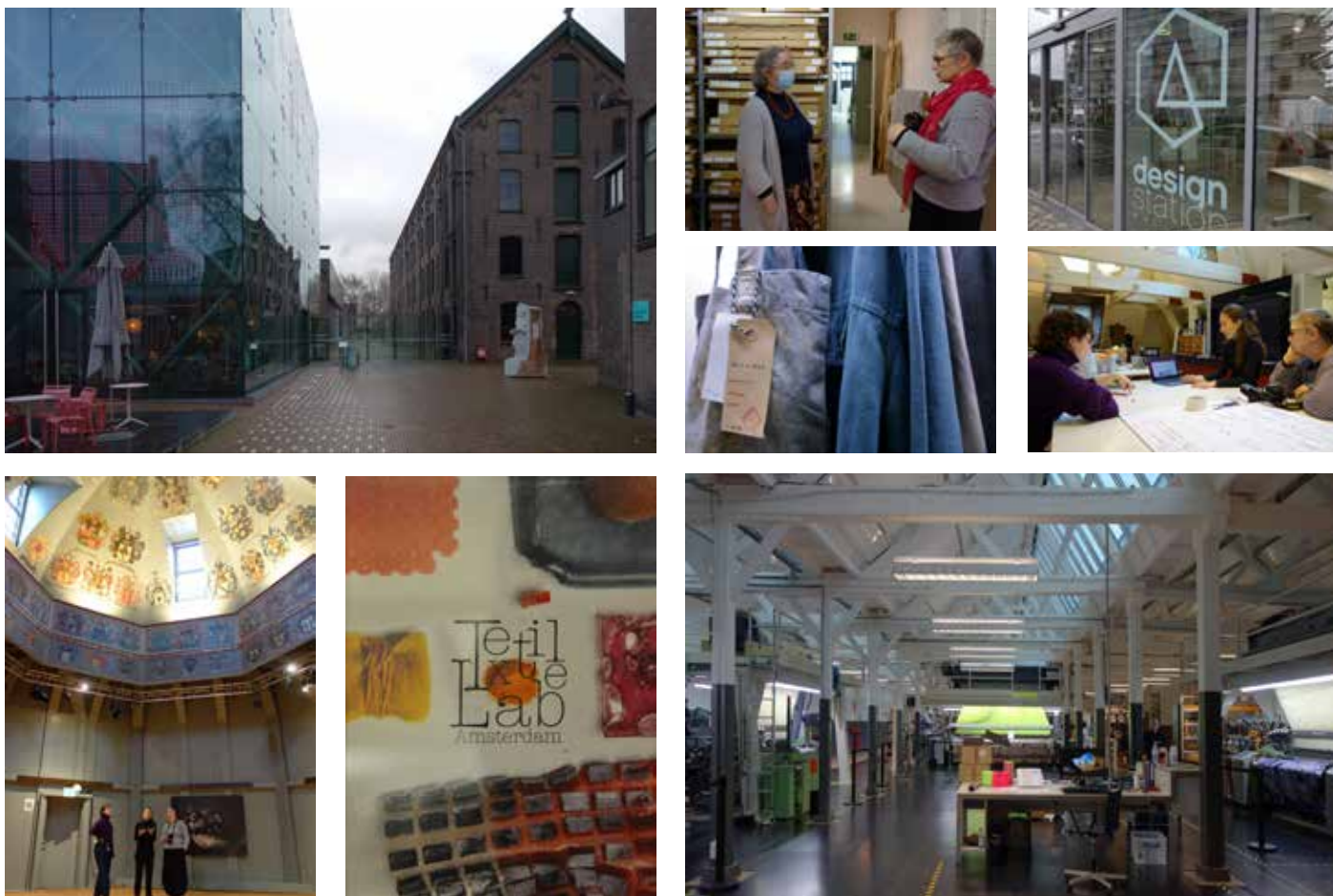


Netherlands/Belgium Cooperation Travel: Textile Studies, Craft Education and Makerspaces



Impressions from Netherlands and Belgium: TextielMuseum Tilburg/outside view; Textile Research Centre, Leiden/Gillian Vogel-sang-Eastwood/Bärbel Schmidt; Texlab Liège/design station; Fashion for Good/Hul de Kes; Waag TextileLab/Michelle Vossen/Maro Pebo/Bärbel Schmidt; Waag TextileLab/guild auditorium; Waag TextileLab/Amsterdam; TextielLab Tilburg/jacquard weaving lab.

Fotos: Bärbel Schmidt/Lucia Schwalenberg

Textile Studies, Craft Education and Makerspaces was the main topic for a cooperation travel to Netherlands and Belgium of Prof. Bärbel Schmidt and Lucia Schwalenberg, Osnabrück University. The goal of the Textile Studies program at Osnabrück University is to train future textile teachers, stimulate the students' curiosity and excitement for textiles and encourage further studies of textile culture. The Textile Studies department offers a setting where the students experience that knowledge is unlimited and learning is for life. Textile Studies have a special responsibility on behalf of Education for Sustainable Development and creative skills.

The project is funded by the Lower Saxony Ministry for Science and Culture through the support programm INTENSIVinternational to strengthen european cooperations. The project is following a previous research travel to Finland. Goal is to investigate holistic education approaches for Textile and Craft Education as cross-generational, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary lifelong learning process. Aim is to explore concrete cooperation options with Nordic Craft and Textile Education Institutions, Osnabrück University/Lower Saxony and neighbouring Netherlands and Belgium for exchange of students, staff and knowledge. The focus of the research is onto Makerspaces as future-oriented sites of shared economy, education and equipment as well as places for joint knowledge transfer.



Fashion for Good, Amsterdam: Botanical colours/Hul le Kes; vegan leather/Phool Fleather; asparagus surface/Happy van der Heide.

Vegan leather from temple flowers, surfaces made of asparagus peel, biodegradable ecoglitter from eucalyptus trees: Fashion for Good in Amsterdam is packed with material research, explorer skills and alternatives to damaging fashion industry.

Fashion for Good is a global initiative aiming to make fashion good with a museum in the heart of Amsterdam. The focus is on innovative technologies and business models that have the potential to transform and change the fashion industry. Fashion for Good in Amsterdam offers next to the museum a coworking space that allows partners to collaborate in making fashion a force for good. Common goals are the five essentials: material (safe, healthy and designed for reuse and recycling), economy (circular, shared and benefiting everyone), energy (renewable and clean), water (clean and available to all) and lives (living and working conditions, that are just, safe and dignified).

Fashion for Good scouts start-ups with innovative materials or techniques. Dutch design duo Hul le Kes makes garments by hand using leftovers or antique fabrics with signs of wear and tear. Hul le Kes offers a dying-, mending- and reshare-service. Happy van der Heide creates unique items out of fishleather from local fishermen. Fleather is a vegan leather developed out of flower waste from Indian temple flowers. Fashion for Good gives an inspiring insight into sustainable alternatives of fashion and textile production: A perfect start into a research travel to Netherlands and Belgium.



Fashion for Good, Amsterdam.



Waag/TextileLab, Amsterdam: Historical guild auditorium with Michelle, Maro, Bärbel; material archive with leaflet and silicone skin.

Technology is not neutral - this is the philosophy of Waag, a future lab for technology and society. Situated in a historical former town entrance and weighing house. The Waag was a past guild meeting place in the heart of Old Amsterdam. The guild auditorium is part of the Waag as trans-disciplinary team of designers, artists and scientists. The public funded institution aims to design an open, honest and inclusive future. The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the European Union supports Waag, aiming to use design, technology, network and education for to solve social challenges.

Waag is bundling its activities in several Research Labs for to empower people to design the future. The TextileLab as one of them cares about circularity, sustainability and equality within the changing fashion and textile industry. The Lab implements material research combined with an material archive, current and historical manufacturing processes as well as analogue and digital craft techniques. The TextileLab is involved in workshops, conferences and education projects. The efforts are summerized in the Fabricademy. Thanks to Michelle and Maro for hosting us and to Cecilia Raspanti and Ista Boszhard for making it possible.



Waag: FabLab and TextileLab, Amsterdam.



Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood and Prof. Bärbel Schmidt discussing historical textile/Textile Research Centre, Leiden.

From questions of global fast fashion, we immersed into a treasure trove of historic textiles. The Textile Research Centre/TRC is an independent foundation, located in the historic centre of Leiden. Aim is to study textiles in the context of science, craft and craft education. Thereby the TRC focusses on dress and identity as well textile technology, from pre-industrial to industrial. The collection with more than 30.000 textiles is constantly growing, published online by open access. The core are European garments, in particular Dutch and German. The collection is completed by a library and an exhibition space as well as supplemented by workshops and research facilities for international students, scientists and designers.

The visit to Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood as director was embedded in signing a cooperation contract between University Osnabrück/Textile Studies and TRC. Textile students from Osnabrück will analyse unidentified Dutch and German regional dresses from the TRC collection, being supervised by Prof. Bärbel Schmidt. The research will lead into an online exhibition and a booklet. The work is supported by the Lower Saxony Ministry for Science and Culture for the development of Dutch-German cultural relationships. Precious pieces found their way to Osnabrück University for to be examined as historic Dutch and German caps, shawls, bodices, aprons and skirts.



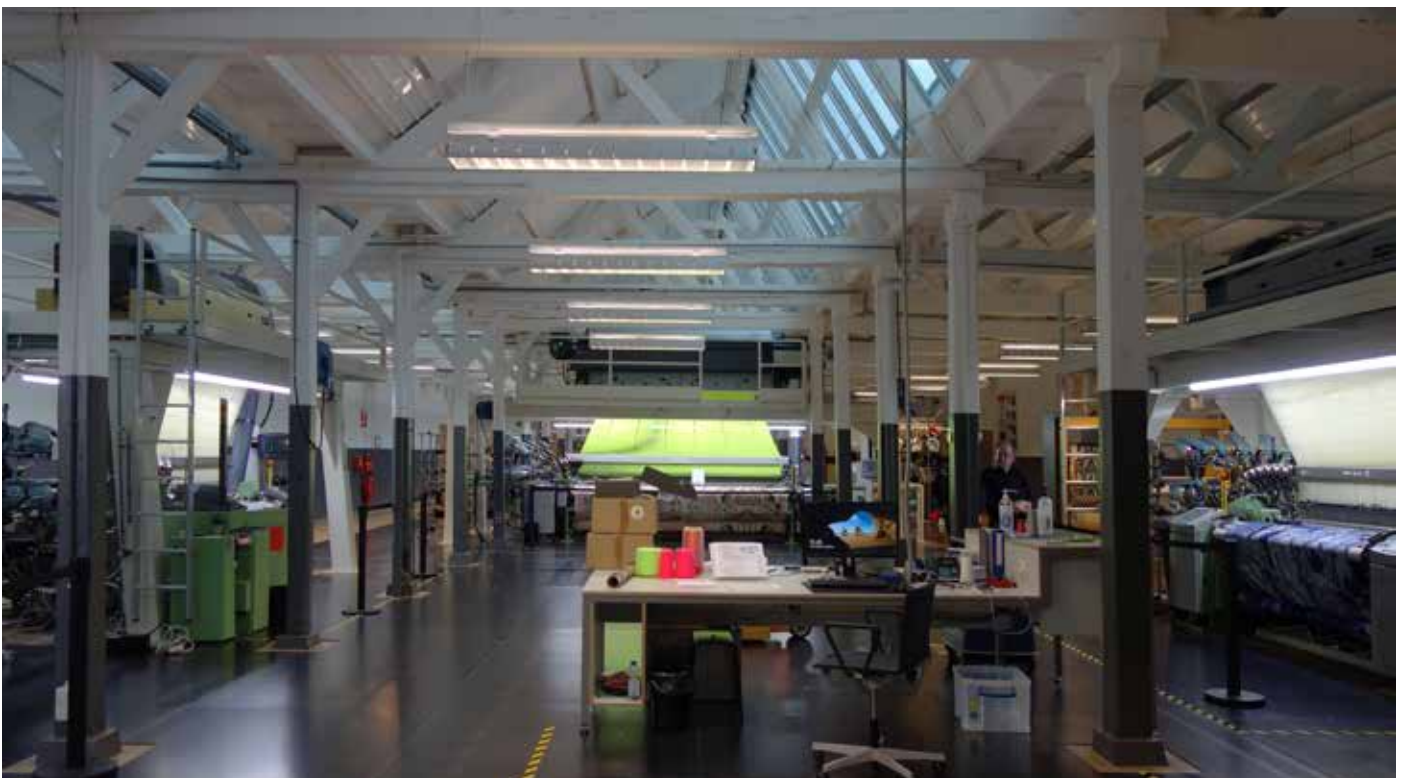
17th century modelbuch for embroidery from Nürnberg and German costume caps, treasured in Textile Research Centre, Leiden.



Bridging the gap between the past and the future:TextielMuseum, Tilburg.

Bridging the gap between the past and the future is the core of TextielMuseum Tilburg. The working museum is located in a former textile factory linked to a new building. The museum is a worldwide unique combination of industrial heritage and future-oriented innovation hub for textiles. The former sheep farming region Brabant is characterised by rise and fall of textile industry. The history is visualised in a wollen blanket factory and a 19th-century damask weaving atelier. Besides the historic jacquardlooms, there is an extensive archive of pattern drawings, punch cards, sample books and damask linen.

The TextielLab as knowledge centre for textiles is outstandingly equipped with industrial weaving, knitting, tufting, embroidery and lasercutting technique. Artists and designers from all over the world aim to work here. Projects as the stage curtain for the opera in Oslo, room dividers for Rothschild Bank London or wallhangings for Kunsthaus Bregenz has been realized here. Next to cultural history and new technology, textile education is an important task of TextielMuseum and TextielLab in Tilburg. Speaking to Michelle as staff member for higher education and exploring cooperation options, was the reason for our meeting up.



TextielLab: Knowledge centre for textiles, Tilburg.



Long Live Fashion! Installation Christien Meindertsma in cooperation with Wolkat textile recycling; fixing-fashion-room, mending-guide: TextielLab and TextielMuseum, Tilburg.

Additional to the permanent display the TextielLab and TextielMuseum are presenting temporary exhibitions on cultural history, design and sustainability in the fashion and textile production. The exhibition Long Live Fashion! opens with an installation by Christien Meindertsma, who analysed discarded garments. Using hundreds of information cards on the wall, Meindertsma provides insights into how many raw materials are used in our clothing. For her research, the designer delved into the collecting and processing operations of Wolkat, an Tilburg textile recycling company. The exhibition inspires to use garments more sustainably. Visitors discover the amount of raw materials that are used for clothes, learn to repair textiles in a fixing-fashion-room and have a customized item made with recycled textiles in a Microfactory run by fashion students.

TextielMuseum and TextielLab Tilburg are extended by a public library. Tilburg in this gathering of cultural history, know how, high-end technology and professional guidance is an extraordinary and worldwide unique education centre for schoolchildren, students, designers and artists for to develop talent, skills and to realize visions.



Microfactory: Fashion items custom-made from second-hand textiles with a small machine park run by fashion students. Long live Fashion! Exhibition: TextielLab and TextielMuseum, Tilburg.

Texlab Liège defines itself as lab for prototyping textile design. The workshop offers a variety of machines including a digital jacquardloom TC2, a digital embroidery machine as well as different sewing and plotting machines. The Texlab is funded by Wallonie and the European fund FEDER for to foster regional development. The Lab organises workshops and start-up consultancy for professional designers and artists. It is situated in a coworking-space of Wallonie Design, called design station. Fanny Van hammée and Marie Beguin are supporting customers from the first draft to prototyping production. The Texlab is an encouraging example of a professional textile makerspace, realized by regional and supra-regional funding.

Thanks to ... everybody who shared informations and made this journey possible. Special thanks to Gillian Vogel-sang-Eastwood, Michelle Vossen & Maro Pebo, Michelle Baggerman, Fanny Van hammée and Marie Beguin.

About Bärbel ... teaches Textile Studies as a Professor at Osnabrück University/Germany. Her research fields are textile culture and textile education. She is working on a cooperative project with Textile Research Centre Leiden/NL and Immaterial World Cultural Heritage Blueprint.

About Lucia ... after studying Journalism and Textile Design in Munich and Hannover, Lucia completed the Shuttle Course at Kunsthochschule Linz/Textiles Zentrum Haslach/Austria. She works as a textile designer, weaving lecturer and research staff member at Osnabrück University/Textile Studies. She is working on her PHD-project „The Beiderwand weaving workshop Meldorf as a textile place of memory“.



Texlab Liège: Fanny Van hammée introducing the digital embroidery machine to Bärbel Schmidt.



Texlab Liège: Outside view of design station Wallonie.