1st International Congress and Exhibition on Sustainability in Music, Art, Textile and Fashion (ICESMATF 2023) January, 26-27 Madrid, SPAIN



Sustainable Design Products in Portugal

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Abstract

This paper focuses on sustainable design that is being developed by new generations of designers in Portugal in the last years of this century. Nowadays it is increasingly important for the material culture in the world to develop products with an agreed value, with national and eco-friendly materials. The last generations of designers of the last century in Portugal, tend to create their own small productions, using techniques or technologies produced by their own, sustainable, and socially responsible. With this work we want to highlight the sustainable design products produce by them, reflecting their position and the acting profile of this designers, considering the goals of the companies they work for, the ecological way by reducing the involved costs of energy consumed on their fabrics, the resources of used materials, the environment impact, and the importance they place on the product lifecycle. We have chosen this topic after identifying numerous cases of sustainable design products developed in Portugal. The main goal of this work is to document Portuguese sustainable design products, analyze them and reflect how can they contribute to create a national design identity, reinforce the companies, the processes, and techniques of production, always with an environmental responsibility perspective. We intend to assemble, a variety of sustainable good Portuguese designers' practices with examples of materials and national brands, to inspire the future design generations working more with sustainable products and implement a new concept of living. To future work, we aim to write a chapter of a book with an analysis of these products, separating them into typologies like industrial products: furniture, fashion, lighting, glass, ceramics or new applications of local crafts and materials in design products.

Keywords: Sustainability, design, products, Portugal