

Sustainability and the Social Fabric: Europe's new textile industries

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Book Outline

The topic of sustainability in textile production has been the subject of considerable research. Much of this research has focused on the materials and practices associated with the manufacture of textiles and textile commodities. For example, studies have analysed and exposed the environmental impact of the international transport of materials, finished products, and the outsourcing across national borders of the different stages of the production cycle.

Design entrepreneurs, artisans and Europe's new textile communities provide an alternative focus for the theme of sustainability in the textile industry. Through a series of case studies drawn from across Europe this book will present key examples of textile companies that are successful by virtue of their links with a specific European community. The case studies will highlight, through a comparative context of similar companies in North America and Australia, how a cooperative relationship between enterprise and a community can lead to sustained mutual benefit. The shift of focus away from materials and practices toward social sustainability will include the role of skills honed over generations, the historical practices of a region, and marginal communities that survive by virtue of the value of their very special labour.

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