

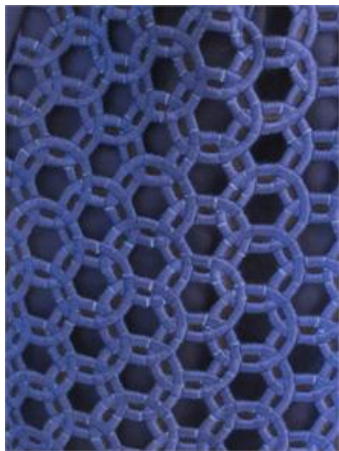
Sep 5 2011

MATERIAL FOCUS

Elise Kim: Material Focus

Vietnamese born designer Elise Kim has built a cult following in Holland since graduating from the Amsterdam Fashion Institute (AMFI) last year. Specialising in print and fabric development, Kim's studio, based in the bowels of a waterway building on the Amsterdam delta is a trove of fabrication inspiration. Stylus visits Elise Kim's Amsterdam studio and explores her connection with fabric and the struggle to break through to the big time.

ELISE KIM: MATERIAL FOCUS
GALLERY / 67 IMAGES



ARTICLE REFERENCES

[Elise Kim](#)
[Textile Museum](#)

In Addition



Meadham Kirchhoff

MATERIAL FOCUS / 25 MAY 2011



Peter Jensen: Material Focus

MATERIAL FOCUS / 17 AUG 2011



Louise Gray: Up Your Look

MATERIAL FOCUS / 06 JUN 2011



Yohji Yamamoto: Fabric

MATERIAL FOCUS / 11 MAR 2011

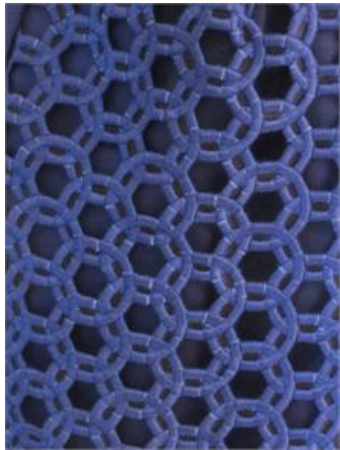
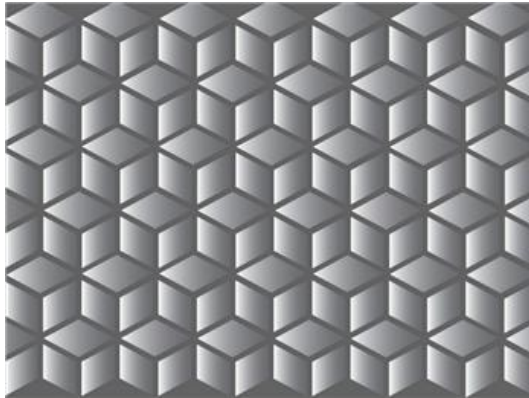


Fabric Development

"Throughout my training it was print and fabric development that really inspired me. For me it's all about the material. The material itself speaks to me." Every season Kim seeks new fabrics working with a range of techniques from weaving, laser cutting, embroidery and print.

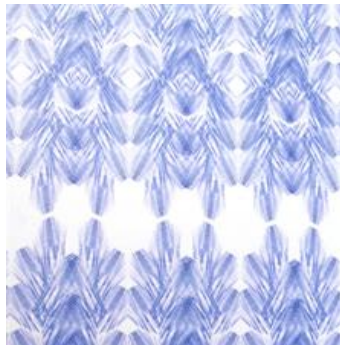
The Thread

“Growing up my family didn’t have much so all of my toys were made of fabric. My grandmother used to collect materials for me because I loved them, and the memory of the different colours and textures has stayed with me. I have an emotional connection with materials.”



In terms of development, Kim always begins at her computer screen. With her digital designs in hand, Kim works with the fabric technicians at the Textile Lab in Tilburg (Textile Museum/ Audax) to produce the finished product. “ The lab is funded by the government and is an incredible resource for designers – although whenever they see me come in they always grumble because they know I’m going to want them to do something nearly impossible!”

It is important for me to challenge myself every season with a new fabric and technique. At the moment I’m very interested in pleating for next season, especially in leather whereas last season was all about laser cutting.”



THE TITICAU



NYFW: Game On
17:00 / 12 SEP 2011

New York Fashion Week has been showing its competitive streak this season, with numerous designers sending sports-inspired collections down the... »



NYFW: Brights and Stripes at 10 Crosby Derek Lam
14:30 / 09 SEP 2011

Fashion designer Derek Lam unveiled the second outing of his diffusion line, 10 Crosby Derek Lam, as part of New York Fashion Week yesterday. Named... »



Net-a-Porter's Augmented Reality Pop-up

RETAIL / 12:00 / 09 SEP 2011

Luxury fashion e-tailer Net-a-Porter took its digital prowess onto the streets last night with an interactive window display on London's Mount Street... »

Harvey Nichols' Wool Week

17:00 / 08 SEP 2011

Luxury UK-based department store Harvey Nichols launched Wool Week on Monday 5 September in support of The Campaign for Wool – an initiative founded... »

CFDA's Model Age Restriction Guidelines

09:00 / 06 SEP 2011

The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) has issued stricter guidelines for its members when employing models for shows and campaigns ahead... »

[VIEW ALL](#)



GALLERY / 19 MORE IMAGES

Inspirations

“Research into concepts is always the first step for me. Concepts or stories feed into the way I feel about fabric, which propels my designs.”

“My inspirations are always very graphic, and most usually come from the field of architecture. The fact that I use the computer to create technical drawings inspires me through the very process. I’m inspired by technology.”

The Internet can be just as inspiring as an art gallery, says Kim; “of course I look at art, books and magazines, but there is now a world of inspiration at your fingertips”.





GALLERY / 14 MORE IMAGES

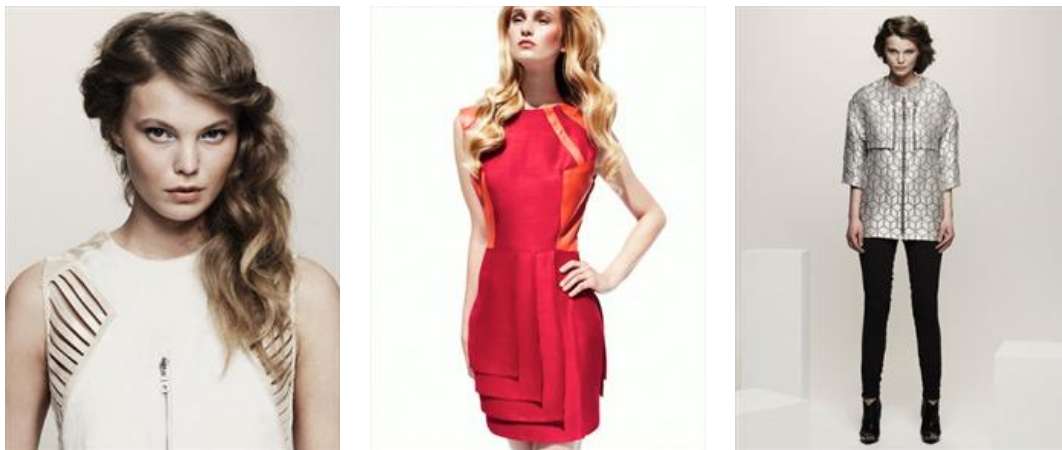
Business Acumen

Private client business and word of mouth is so far driving Kim's sales as well as attention from Dutch magazines and bloggers. This month Kim increased her team from one seamstress to three with an additional three interns taken on to expand production.

"Your first collections must be more avant-garde to get attention for your label, to stand out, but this is obviously difficult in commercial terms. This season I've taken a bit risk in using so much colour – Dutch buyers are particularly conservative about colour, but I felt it was really important for the aesthetic and the mood of the collection.

There's no doubt about it this is a really, really tough business, and you have to be savvy and make plans. I'm a real planner – I try to know where I am going, making deadlines for my seamstresses and myself. You do have to adapt your plans as things are always changing but it's so important to have a roadmap or else you can get so easily lost.

Of course I want to sell but in all honesty all I really want is the opportunity to keep creating. This is my passion and I would give up everything else to make it work."



GALLERY / 5 MORE IMAGES

ARTICLE REFERENCES

[Elise Kim](#)
[Textile Museum](#)

ELISE KIM: MATERIAL FOCUS

GALLERY / 67 IMAGES

STYLUS OVERVIEW :: BENEFITS TO YOUR BUSINESS :: MEET THE TEAM :: PRESS :: SUBSCRIBE TO STYLUS :: CONTACT US :: TERMS & CONDITIONS :: CAREERS

© STYLUS MEDIA GROUP 2011. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.