



UNIVERSITY
OF LEEDS



Issue 04
June 2026

school of design digest

Introduction

In this edition of the School of Design Digest, we celebrate a wide range of achievements across the School. We highlight exciting developments within our community, including the **Colour4CRAFTS** exhibition, new research partnerships through the **AUTOLOOP** project, and the continued success of our **PhD researchers**, who are contributing significantly to the academic landscape in diverse ways.

This issue also features inspiring **alumni stories**, updates on **employability workshops**, insights from **industry guests and speakers**, and highlights of recent **research awards and publications**.

From award-winning students and impactful student-led initiatives to internationally recognised research in **sustainability, digital design, and colour science**, this edition showcases the breadth and quality of work across the School of Design. We hope you enjoy reading about these achievements and that you join us in celebrating the people whose creativity, expertise, and dedication continue to make the School such a vibrant place to study, conduct research, and work.

			
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News Spotlight

01



Yorkshire Fashion Archive Expansion

The **Yorkshire Fashion Archive (YFA)**, housed within the School of Design, continues to grow as a key resource for teaching, research, and public engagement. Established to document the region's rich fashion heritage, the archive now includes contributions from around **100 donors** and spans a significantly expanded historical range.

Originally focused on twentieth-century dress, the collection now features garments dating from the **1860s to the early 2000s**. It holds more than **1,400 items of dress and accessories**, alongside an extensive archive of **vintage dressmaking patterns (1920s–1990s)**, haberdashery, and a wide range of fashion-related print media.

Alongside the **University of Leeds Textile Archive** and the **Marks & Spencer Archive**, the YFA forms one of three major archival collections at the University. It plays a central role in supporting teaching across fashion, textiles, and design programmes, enabling students to engage directly with original garments and materials.

Beyond teaching, the archive is also actively used in **public engagement and collaborative projects**, including exhibitions and partnerships such as Wool ReFashioned with The Woolmark Company. As a unique record of Yorkshire's fashion history, the YFA continues to inform **PhD research, international publications, and community projects**, while remaining accessible to both academic and public audiences.



Leeds Raise & Give Fashion Show (LRFS)

This year, students raised over **£15,000**, a new fundraising record for the Leeds RAG Fashion Show. Led by **Mia McDermott, a final-year Fashion Marketing BA student** and Chief Executive Director, this year's show was a spectacular success. Below, Mia provides an exciting overview of Leeds Rag.

*"Each year, Leeds Raise & Give Fashion Show (LRFS) brings together students from the University of Leeds to deliver the **largest student-led charity event on campus**, and one of the biggest student fashion shows in England. This year was made even more special through the collaboration with Leeds Arts University, particularly working alongside Creative Director Nia Southworth, whose vision helped shape the show from the very beginning.*

*The 2026 show, **GAIA: An Earthly Soul**, explored biophilia and humanity's connection to the natural world. The show unfolded across four scenes: Ancestral Whispers, celebrating community and ancestral wisdom; Bodies of Water, inspired by the strange beauty beneath the ocean's surface; Ghost in the Machine, reflecting on disconnection in a digital world; and Threads of Life, where Gaia returns, and nature reclaims what is rightfully hers.*

*A huge number of creatives from the School of Design helped bring the show to life. The core team included Deputy Executive Director **Maria Currie**, Graphic Designer **Mair Hobbs**, Model Relations **Ewan Brocklesby**, Head of Charities **Poppy Fendwick**, Social Media Manager **Abbie Mandaracas**, and Fundraising Manager **Ellie Hindley**. Many of the designers, photographers, models, and hair and makeup artists were also from the School of Design, making the project a real creative collaboration."*

Beyond the runway, **LRFS** continues to make a significant charitable impact, supporting MAP, Behind Closed Doors and the British Red Cross. Over the past 18 years, the initiative has raised more than **£500,000** for local and national charities.



Exec team speech

Photographer: Zoe Haythornthwaite @zoehayart



Designer: Megan Handovsky-Boyd @Meganr0sa
(BA Fashion Design Innovation student)
Photographer: Daisy Hutchins @daisyh.photographyy



Dress: Frances Young @fran.y.designs
Headpiece: Abigail Kerner @ab1mar1a
Photographer: Emilia Fennell @fentographer

Success Stories



MA Student Wins International Logo Competition

Xin Guan, an **MA Advertising and Design** student from China, has won an international logo competition for the **North Sea University Partnership (NSUP)**, a consortium of eight UK and Norwegian universities focused on energy, the green transition, marine research, and cultural heritage, aligned with shared research and innovation priorities across the region.

Her winning design reflects the partnership's values of **collaboration, sustainability, and innovation**, using symbolic elements of connection, direction, and hope to convey unity and progress across the North Sea region. Inspired by the cultural and historical connections of the North Sea region, Xin's design features symbolic elements that represent unity and progress, including motifs of heritage, marine research, navigation, and renewable resources.

Xin explained how her experience at the **School of Design** supported her creative development:

"Leeds gave me the confidence to connect design with cultural storytelling, which has had a big influence on my work, including the NSUP project. It aligned perfectly with my interest in design that connects history, geography and institutional identity. Studying at Leeds has been an inspiring and enriching experience. I especially enjoyed the open and diverse learning environment, where creativity and critical thinking are strongly encouraged. My programme allowed me to explore visual communication in depth and to collaborate with students from different backgrounds."

Read more →



North Sea
University
Partnership



School of Design Student Reps Win the Academic Rep of the Year

We are proud to celebrate the success of our **student representatives**, who were recognised for their valuable contributions and leadership at the **AHC Partnership Awards** and **University-wide Partnership Awards** in May.

Laura Gooch, Francesca Malpass, and Carolina Contreras Hernandez were recognised for their outstanding commitment to improving both the School and the wider student experience through partnership working with staff.

Director of Student Education, Dr Yuri Siregar, said:

“The best partnerships happen when students and staff listen, act and improve things together. Francesca, Laura and Carolina (School Reps) have shown exactly what this looks like in their work with Alessia and Catherine, our Deputy Directors of Student Education. The students bring energy, creativity and fresh insights. The staff help sharpen ideas and guide decisions. Together, they have improved the student experience and School in practical ways, for example, our student information hub and student-led workshops. Their work now feeds directly into the School Action Plan and the wider School strategy.”

The representatives also played a key role in rebuilding the **Student Staff Partnership Forums** into a more collaborative and action-focused space, helping ensure student voices continue to shape the School community.



Prof. Sascha Stollhans, Pro-Dean for Student Education with Laura Gooch and Carolina Contreras Hernandez

Student Secures Risograph Residency

Second-year **Graphic and Communication Design** student **Poppy Hartley** has been selected for a **Risograph Residency at East Street Arts** in Leeds.

The residency throughout May and June offers dedicated studio time to develop her practice in **risograph printing**, focusing on experimentation with new creative approaches in the Riso studio in response to themes of heritage and community.

Poppy's work explores **experimental print processes**, embracing unpredictability and material "mistakes" to create layered and textured visual outcomes.

"My work often explores experimental printing methods, where I stay open to unpredictability and mistakes within the process. I'm drawn to unusual textures, layered imperfections, and ambiguous visual outcomes, embracing the unexpected results that emerge through printmaking."

Follow Poppy's work on her Design Instagram account [@conrete.nd](#)



Printmaking Technician Shortlisted for Contemporary Printmaking Prize 2026

Bachittar Singh, printmaking technician in the School of Design, was shortlisted for the prestigious **@fendittongallery Contemporary Printmaking Prize 2026**. His work was exhibited at the gallery in Cambridge from 23rd May to 14th June.

The **Contemporary Printmaking Prize** celebrates the vitality and diversity of printmaking today, bringing together 40 outstanding original prints selected from over 500 submissions. Showcasing a wide range of techniques, voices, and perspectives, the exhibition highlights both emerging and established artists working in printmaking. Each work demonstrates the continued relevance and innovation of printmaking as a contemporary art form.



A-P

Balitz 2026

Student Education



MA Digital Design Futures: “From Portrait to Pixel” Pop-Up Showcase

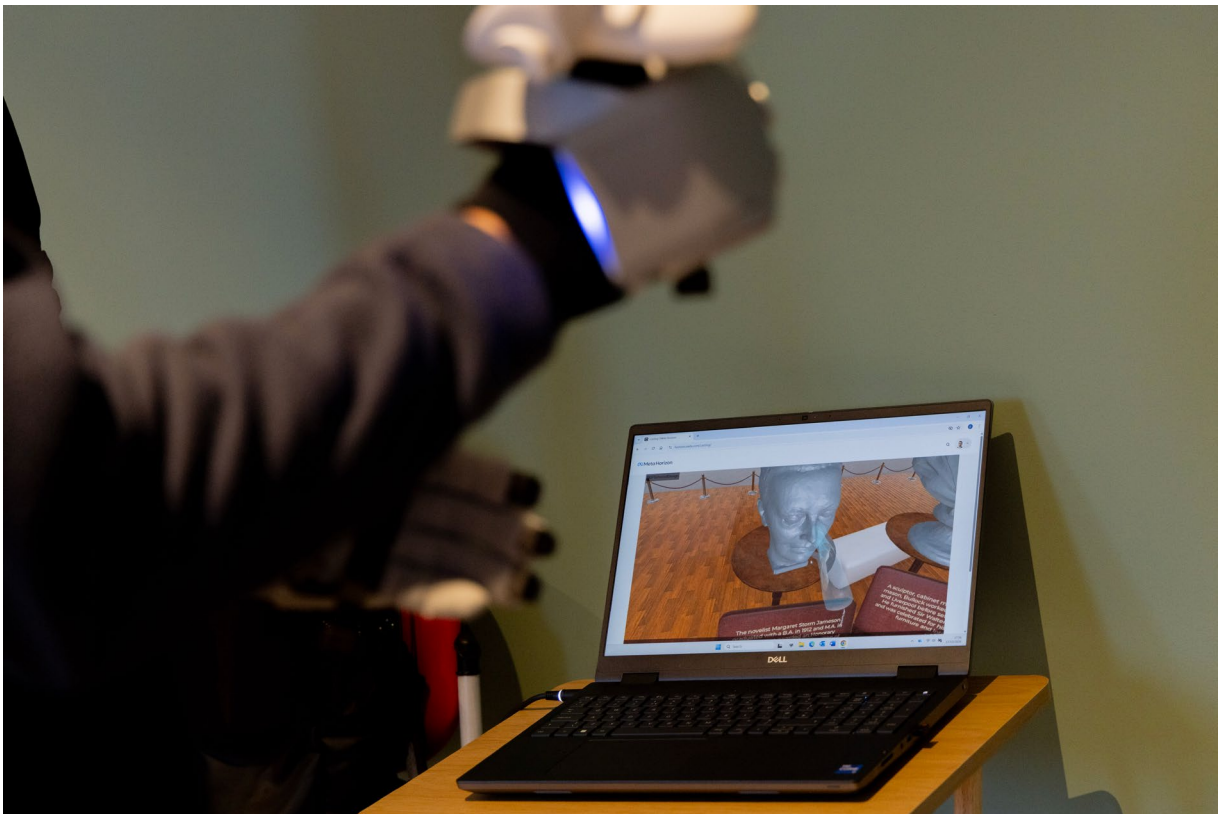
Students from the **MA Digital Design Futures** programme recently presented [From Portrait to Pixel](#), a pop-up showcase created as part of the Who am I to You? exhibition at the **Treasures of the Brotherton Gallery**.

Using 3D scanning and immersive digital technologies, students transformed historic portrait busts from the University’s collections into interactive virtual experiences. Visitors were able to explore digital environments, engage with dynamic games, and experience the exhibition through virtual reality headsets and haptic glove technology.

Each project invited audiences to consider questions of identity and representation, encouraging visitors to explore the stories behind historic figures while reflecting on the exhibition’s central question: Who am I to You?

The showcase highlighted the innovative and interdisciplinary work taking place across the School of Design, combining digital storytelling, creative technologies, and interactive design practice.

[‘The Who am I to You?’](#) exhibition runs until **3rd October 2026**.



Postgraduate Research Winter Symposium

Our **PGR Winter Symposium** took place on 5th February 2026, bringing together **postgraduate researchers** from across the School to share and discuss their work.

The event featured a wide range of **research posters exploring diverse design-related topics**, highlighting the breadth of research activity taking place within the School of Design. Abigail Tranter, PhD Student Representative, reflected on the event:

“It provided an excellent opportunity for students to showcase and discuss their work with their peers.”

The symposium continues to provide an important platform for postgraduate researchers to present innovative work, exchange ideas, and strengthen the School’s research community.



Student-Led Skills Fair

On 25th March 2026, the School of Design hosted its first-ever **Student-Led Skills Fair**. This event was created to promote **peer-to-peer collaboration**, offering students a dedicated platform to design, present, and deliver practical workshops on a skill of their choice to their fellow classmates. It provided a brilliant opportunity for students to develop presentation and leadership skills, share knowledge across separate programmes and levels, and foster a wider sense of community.

This student representative initiative was organised by UG Representative **Francesca Malpass** and PG Representative **Carolina Contreras**, with key support from Alessia Grassi and Catherine Stones, Deputy Directors of Student Education.

The Fair featured four student-led workshops:

- **Concept to Cover:** Led by Scarlett Lightfoot, guiding participants through editorial-style poster layouts, imagery, and typography.
- **Cinematic XR Storyboarding:** Led by Frida Fang, introducing students to transforming traditional storyboards into immersive XR scenes using Unity and Blender.
- **The Power of Colour:** Led by Nidhi Tewari, exploring colour psychology, digital accessibility, and branding strategies.
- **Blender Bootcamp:** Delivered by Francesca Malpass, offering a hands-on introduction to 3D modelling, scene setup, and CGI rendering.

We hope this successful first edition of the Skills Fair inspires even more students to share their unique talents in the years to come.

Employability Workshop

On 4th March 2026, **Jeffrey Thorpe, School of Design Employability Lead**, hosted an **employability workshop** for postgraduate students and final-year undergraduate students preparing for life after university.

The session brought together speakers from the School, the University Employability Team, the International Office, and industry guest speaker John West, Director of Skills and Training at UKFT, the UK's largest fashion and textile network.

The workshop covered a range of topics designed to support students as they transition into employment, including job searching, application strategies, CV and cover letter writing, and interview preparation using the STARR method.

John West's session focused on **employability in the fashion and textile sector**, offering insights into **career pathways, industry organisations, and opportunities available to graduates entering the field**.

The event concluded with guidance for international students interested in working in the UK after graduation, including information on post-study opportunities and visa requirements.



Première Vision Trip

In early February, a group of 26 students from BA Fashion Design Innovation, BA Sustainable Fashion, and BSc Textile Innovation and Sustainability visited Première Vision in Paris, one of the world's leading trade fairs for fashion textiles, accessories, and manufacturing.

The visit provided students with the opportunity to engage directly with **global industry trends, materials innovation, and contemporary fashion manufacturing practices**.

During the trip, students also had the chance to visit current exhibitions such as the Dior exhibition at La Galerie Dior, at the historic address where the legendary Haute Couture designer worked. The trip also gave students the opportunity to explore Paris' extensive network of historic department stores, designer stores, concept stores, and fabric/ haberdashery stores to inspire their own work.







Year in Industry

Ella Harris – Reiss

Sustainable Fashion BA student Ella Harris completed a year in industry working as an ESG and Sustainability Assistant at Reiss.

Reflecting on her experience, Ella said:

“It was honestly one of the best things I have ever done. The placement allowed me to apply what I had been learning in a real-world context and gain a much deeper, practical understanding of the fashion industry. I developed a clearer sense of what areas I enjoy and where my strengths and interests lie, as well as parts of the industry I was less drawn to. This experience then led to an opportunity to work as a CSR Assistant at Hermès GB. It was incredibly valuable in helping me shape my future direction.

Overall, my confidence both personally and professionally grew hugely over the year. I genuinely couldn’t recommend doing a placement enough, as it gave me clarity, experience, and direction that I will carry with me after university.

Now that I’ve finished my course, I’m particularly interested in roles where I can help drive more responsible practices across supply chains and contribute to meaningful, measurable change within the industry. My time at Leeds has given me a strong foundation to support these ambitions. I’ve developed a broad understanding of sustainability in fashion from multiple perspectives, including environmental impact, supply chain transparency, material innovation, and social issues such as labour rights.”



Year in Industry

Charlie Reader – Socrates Communications & Buttercrumble

Graphic and Communication Design BA student Charlie Reader completed two industry placements as a **Graphic Design Assistant**, gaining experience across both agency and studio environments.

Reflecting on the experience, Charlie said:

"I spent six months at Socrates Communications in London, working on fast-paced branding briefs for building developments across the city, digital design, and generating Midjourney images for pitch proposals. Contributing to two successful pitches and being offered a full-time role confirmed how I had significantly progressed by the end of the placement.

I then joined Buttercrumble in Leeds, where I worked more independently across illustration, social media content, and branding projects, including creating a complete identity for a small beauty business. Working closely within a small team taught me the value of clear communication, responding to feedback, and trusting my own judgement. Reflecting on both placements, I feel more confident in my technical skills, personal design style and ability to produce thoughtful, high-quality work in my final year of university."

Featured Alumni



Mega Saffira

MA Textile Innovation and Branding graduate

Mega Saffira, who graduated from our MA Textile Innovation and Branding programme in 2016, has been selected as a finalist in the prestigious British Council Alumni Awards, within the Culture, Creativity & Sport category in Indonesia.

The British Council Alumni Awards celebrate global leaders who have used their UK university education to make a positive impact within their communities and industries. This year, more than 1,700 applications were received worldwide, making Mega's selection an exceptional achievement.

Mega is currently a lecturer and researcher at Politeknik Kreatif Indonesia (ESMOD Jakarta), specialising in traditional textiles, cultural heritage, branding, and fashion. Alongside her academic work, she founded The Textile Map, a digital media platform that explores global phenomena in the textile industry with a specific focus on Indonesian heritage. The platform has since reached more than 10,000 readers worldwide.

Mega explained how she chose Leeds to bridge her passions:

"I wanted a master's degree that could combine both textiles and business strategy. After thorough research, I discovered a unique programme at the University of Leeds—the MA in Textile Innovation and Branding. It was the only programme I found that genuinely combined technical textile expertise with branding. The programme offered a rare interdisciplinary structure through both the School of Design and Leeds University Business School, which perfectly matched my goals.

Studying at Leeds trains you to think critically, work collaboratively, and see your discipline through a global lens. It is also a place where you meet mentors who become lifelong partners in your journey. I am deeply grateful to my master's supervisor, Dr Bruce Carnie, and my marketing communications lecturer, Dr Sally Chan, both of whom I am still in touch with today.



At present, I am delighted to be working towards pursuing my doctoral degree back at the University of Leeds, School of Design, having received an offer under the supervision of Dr Sonja Andrew. Education has given me the confidence to own my voice, and I hope others give themselves the same permission to grow. As one of my favourite quotes says: 'No matter how slowly we go, as long as we don't stop.'

Read more →

On Display

05





By Design

Exhibition

By Design, an exhibition showcasing work by staff and students, was on display at **Space@Design** from **26th January to 6th March 2026**. The exhibition demonstrated the **vibrancy and diversity of creative practice across the school**, featuring work by academic and technical staff as well as postgraduate researchers.

Works included textiles and fashion pieces, painting, drawing and etching, photography, video and graphic design, sculpture, and sound work. The contributing artists showcased their research and making skills, communicating their creative and teaching specialisms to their students, colleagues, and visitors interested in the research culture in the **School of Design**.





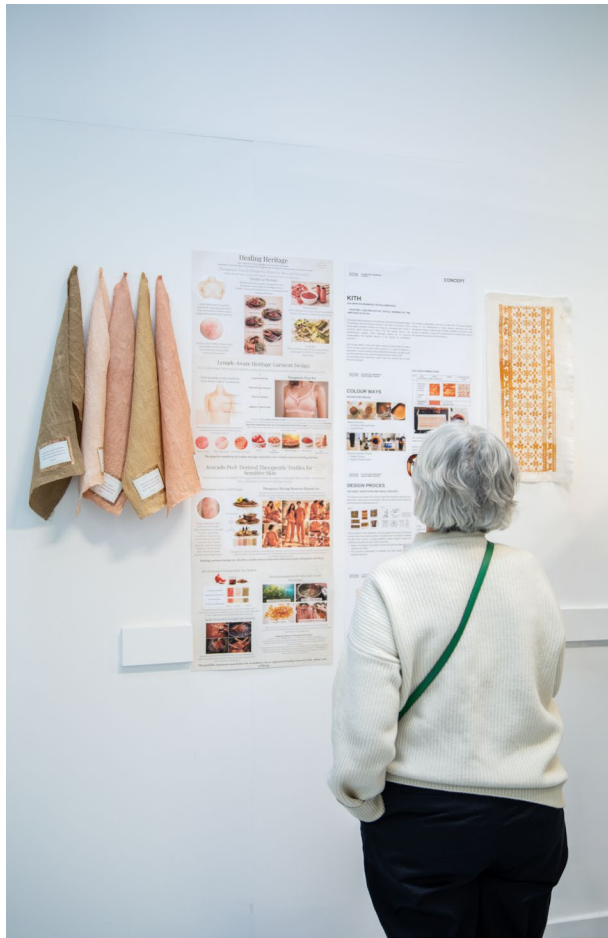
Fashioning the Digital Body

Exhibition

Practice-based PhD student Yimiao Dai produced an inspiring and thoughtful exhibition, “**Fashioning the Digital Body: Prototyping Body Forms through Hybrid Fashion Practice**”, that ran in the School of Design’s Space@Leeds Gallery from 16th March to 24th April 2026.

Yimiao’s research introduces the concept of the **Digital Fashioned Body**. This is a body shaped through digital processes that becomes an active starting point for design rather than a passive form to be dressed. Through a series of experimental projects, the work explored how digitally generated body forms can produce new fashion outcomes. These include sculptural silhouettes, mannequins, avatars, hybrid garments, physical draping experiments, and installation pieces. The **three interconnected projects** presented in this exhibition demonstrated how reimagining the body in digital space can expand the boundaries of fashion practice and material thinking.

The opening night was a wonderful celebration of Yimiao’s ongoing doctoral research, which continues to successfully expand the boundaries of fashion practice and material thinking.



Colour4CRAFTS

Exhibition

The **Colour4CRAFTS: Colour for Tomorrow** exhibition, showcased in our Space@Design gallery from 5th to 29th May 2026, reflected diverse, cutting-edge approaches to colour-led research and experimentation. The exhibition invited audiences to discover the raw beauty and sustainability of natural dyes while envisioning a future in which traditional heritage knowledge and advanced lab technologies unite.

Visitors experienced **groundbreaking scientific research** alongside highly practical applications, such as a beautifully prepared guidebook on natural dyes for educationalists and craft enthusiasts. The display also featured industrial samples, works-in-progress videos, and a dedicated showcase of the finalists of the International Student Textile Design Competition—organised via a partnership between the Colour4CRAFTS project and the **Sustainability Special Interest Group of The Textile Institute**.



Guest Insights



Fashion Forum

Authenticity in Fashion, does it exist?

The School of Design hosted its second Fashion Forum of the academic year, exploring the theme “**Authenticity in fashion, does it exist?**” The event took place on 13th February and featured industry speakers included **Becky Stevenson**, Marketing Director at WGSN, **Paakow Essandoh**, Founder and CEO of MIZIZI International, and **Tracy Mulligan**, Sustainable Fashion and Interiors Consultant.

The key themes discussed by our experts were defining authenticity and authentic values in fashion, the opportunities for new technologies to help fashion brands redefine authenticity, and considering what authenticity will look like in 5 to 10 years' time. The conversation was lively and insightful, allowing students and staff to gain an insider perspective into the fashion industry.



MA Global Fashion Management Guest speaker from NEXT

Fiona Bailey, **Product Learning and Development Manager at Next**, delivered an inspiring session for **MA Global Fashion Management** students on the core module Contemporary Fashion Management, Values and Consumption Experience. Drawing on her extensive experience in both industry and academia, she discussed the real-world challenges **Next** faces in driving innovation and embedding sustainability across its operations, with a focus on Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Production and Consumption.

A key takeaway of the session was the **importance of mindset and cultural change** within organisations. She highlighted that while consumers are increasingly open to sustainable products, internal staff mindsets can lag behind, making change management a significant barrier to progress. Fiona emphasised the role of training and development teams in shifting these mindsets and supporting organisational transformation. Students gained valuable insights into contemporary sustainability challenges in the retail sector, which will support them as they begin their brand management strategy reports. Fiona recently co-authored the book “Creativity and Innovation in the Fashion Business” with Professor Helen Goworek.



Design Forum

AI in the Design World Panel

On 25th February 2026, the School hosted a special panel on **AI in the Design World**, bringing together industry experts **Dragos Popa, Nicholas Betts, Alessandro Carelli, and Haoran Liao**. Framed by prompts such as “How has AI actually changed the day-to-day practice of design over the past 2–3 years?”, the discussion grounded emerging technologies in lived professional realities.

Panellists reflected that AI has rapidly shifted from an experimental tool to an embedded infrastructure. The speakers described practical workflows in which generative systems assist with ideation, prototyping, and iteration, while designers retain responsibility for framing, direction, and judgment. This led to a discussion around ‘**Creativity, Authorship, and Value**’, particularly whether creativity is becoming ‘more about judgement, framing, and curation than making’. While AI accelerates production, panellists argued that originality increasingly lies in problem definition, ethical positioning, and the ability to evaluate outputs critically.

The panel also highlighted the importance of adaptability, critical thinking, and cross-disciplinary collaboration for future graduates. While technical fluency with AI tools is increasingly valuable, the speakers emphasised that traditional design skills, including conceptual clarity, visual literacy, and empathy, remain essential. The session concluded with reflections on the designer’s evolving role in guiding AI systems responsibly, asking better questions, and ensuring that human values remain at the heart of creative practice.

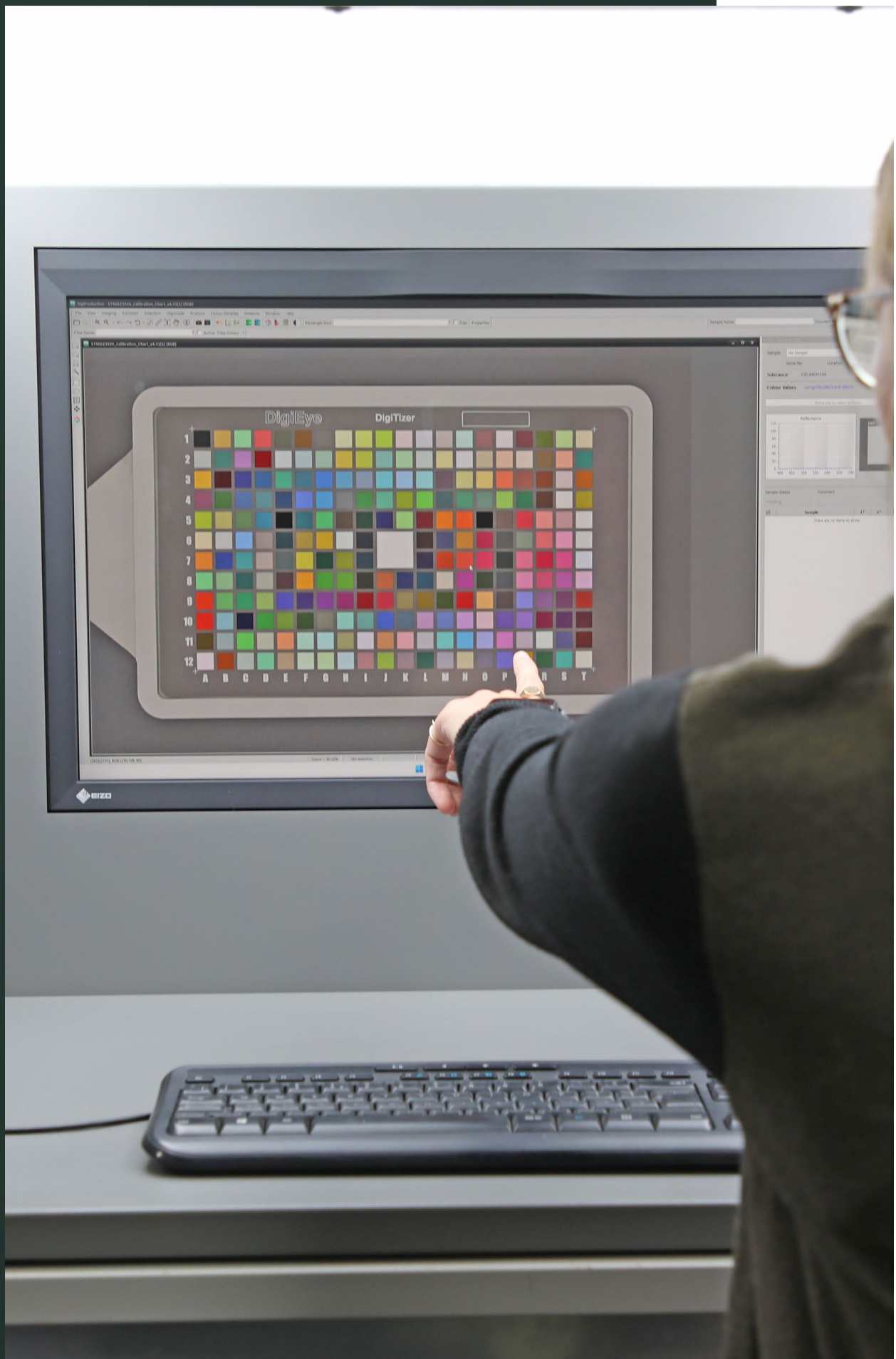


Marks & Spencer Sustainability Forum

The **Marks and Spencer** sustainability team visited the **School of Design** for an extra Fashion Forum focused on sustainability. Speakers included **Katie Drummond**, Raw Materials and Colour Lead; **Fiona Linaker**, Fabric Optimisation Manager; **Katie McCoy**, Programme Manager - Circularity; **Harry Vine**, Sustainability Manager and Manufacturing and Chemistry Manager; and **Simran Virk**, Sustainability Manager - Raw Materials and Circularity.

The team delivered a sensational two-hour masterclass on implementing sustainability and circularity in fashion design at the high street level. Emerging trends in fabric and technology were presented, and the team discussed in detail how **Marks and Spencer** implements them in their products. The session was hugely informative and insightful.

Research Highlights



AUTOLOOP

School of Design joins EU-backed AUTOLOOP project to advance circular textiles

The **University of Leeds, School of Design**, is part of a major new European project, **AUTOLOOP**, which aims to **reduce textile waste** and help create a more **sustainable fashion and textiles industry through circular innovation**.

The University's contribution is led by **Professor Muhammad Tausif**, working with **Professor Stephen Russell** and **Professor Ningtao Mao**. Their research focuses on finding better ways to **reuse and recycle textiles and reduce environmental impact**.

Coordinated by **Fraunhofer UMSICHT**, AUTOLOOP brings together partners across Europe and addresses the challenges highlighted by Euratex: millions of tonnes of textiles are discarded each year, with very little currently being recycled in a **closed-loop system**.

Launched in **September 2025**, the project is developing new approaches, including **smarter textile sorting**, improved recycling methods for **hard-to-process materials**, and better tracking to support future reuse of materials.

[Read more →](#)



Professor Kaida Xiao Featured on Bloomberg TV

Professor Kaida Xiao recently appeared on Bloomberg TV's 'Beyond Innovation' to discuss his research into **facial appearance measurement, skin colour card development, and facial image reproduction** for the mobile phone industry. Kaida said:

“At the moment, the problem is that all the colour systems we currently use are calibrated only using **lighter skin tone**. The **real-world consequence** is if we don't have the data, then the **darkened skin tone is misrepresented** in the photograph, or in the video, and this can have implications even for the **medical community**.”

His interview highlights one part of the work he and his team are doing to develop a more inclusive approach to colour measurement and reproduction.

See full video →



International Hybrid Colloquium: Archive, Material, History

On the **6th May 2026**, the School of Design and FAHACS at the University of Leeds collaborated with the Faculty of Art and Design at Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) to host the international hybrid colloquium **Archive, Material, History**.

The colloquium brought together **researchers, staff, postgraduate researchers, and MA students** from both institutions and their wider networks to discuss key concerns relating to **archives, materiality, and history**. We were delighted to welcome speakers and attendees from across the UK and Indonesia, including **Dr Kahfiati Kahdar**, Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design at ITB, who spoke on the opening panel.

The event was organised by **Dr Andrea Thoma** (Director of International Activities, School of Design) in collaboration with **Dr Kiki Rizky Soetisna Putri** and **Dr Tyar Ratuannisa** from ITB, **Dr Dibyadyuti Roy** (FAHACS) and **Dr Jade Halbert** (School of Design). The event poster and promotional materials were designed by **Dr Yuchan Zhang**, with additional support from colleagues across the School.

Discussions centred on three themes: **Materialities, Restitution: Re-articulating Methodologies**, and the **use of objects, archives, and collections in teaching**. The conversations generated valuable insights and highlighted both shared interests and differing perspectives, creating opportunities for future **collaboration between Leeds and ITB**.

Participants described the event as “a great exercise for all of us” and reflected on the wealth of ideas and perspectives shared throughout the day. The colloquium marked the beginning of what promises to be an ongoing and productive international partnership.



Surface Design Show 2026:

Success for PhD Students

PhD student and **trend consultant Sally Angharad** played a key role in the **Surface Design Show 2026**, the UK's leading event for **surface material innovation**, organised by the **Montgomery Group**.

Alongside her doctoral research, Sally helped develop the show's annual theme and curated the **Surface Spotlight exhibition**. The 2026 theme, **Material Evolution**, explored how design can move beyond a linear “**make-use-dispose**” model towards **circular systems** where materials are continuously **reused, adapted, and reimaged**.

Sally also spoke on the Main Stage with her PhD supervisor, **Professor Stephen Westland**, in a session titled “Chromatic Intelligence: Human Intuition Meets AI for Colour Palette Creation”. They discussed how **digital tools** and **AI** can support **colour design** by analysing images, identifying patterns, and generating early **colour palettes**, while still relying on **human creativity, and judgement**.

The Surface Design Show brings together over **180 exhibitors** and attracts **architects, designers, and material specialists** exploring innovation in the **built environment**. The 2026 edition featured themes including **Refashioned Fabrics, Thoughtful Byproducts, Fascinating Fibres, and Reimagined Craft**.

PhD student **Sophie Fields** also exhibited research on **biodegradable and recycled textile-based materials**, exploring new possibilities for **sustainable surface design**. Both Sally's and Sophie's work is funded by the **Leeds Institute of Textiles and Colour (LITAC)**.



[Sally Angharad](#), PhD student (University of Leeds) and freelance Trend Consultant
@sally_angharad_

Sophie Fields, PhD student, University of Leeds
@_phybre

[Stephen Westland](#), Professor of Colour Science and Technology - University of Leeds @colourchat

[Montgomery Group](#)

[Surface Design Show](#) @surfacethinking

Staff Publications

Gendered water stewardship in Jordan and the influence of women's knowledge, attitudes, and practices on sustainability.

Al Haddid O; Ahmad A; Ahmad Q (2026)

[Discover Sustainability](#)

The role of engagement in older adults' intention to use virtual reality for wellbeing

Al-Samarraie H; Alzahrani AI; Alblehai F (2026) .

[Virtual Reality](#)

Students' online engagement in higher education: a DEMATEL study

Aldowah HA; Al-Samarraie H; Noman F (2026)

[Journal of Computers in Education](#)

Performance Enhancing Design for Running Shoes: When Technology Wins. Fashion, Style and Popular Culture

Almond K; Stansbie L (2026)

[Special Issue: Artificial Intelligence: Design, Production, Media and Consumers.](#)

Morphological and Performance Assessment of Commercial Menstrual and Incontinence Absorbent Hygiene Products.

Birchall L; Newmarch M; Cohen C; Tausif M (2026)

[Polymers \(Basel\)](#)

Cast-off: Revisiting Modernist Abstraction Through Vernacular Craft Practices

Boukla E (2026)

[piano b. Arti e culture visive](#)

Investigation into the aqueous and supercritical carbon dioxide dyeing of polyester and cellulose acetate: The influence of temperature and carriers on fabric coloration and dye levelling

Broadbent PJ; Carr CM; Lewis DM; Rigout ML; Siewers EJ; Kaveh MS; Desai P (2026)

[Coloration Technology](#)

Can Digital Technologies Support Sufficiency in Fashion? Evidence from Innovative UK Fashion SMEs.

Connor-Crabb A; Hemingray C; Toms S (2026)

[Fashion Practice](#)

Extrusion-based 3D bioprinting of osteochondral scaffolds: Strategies using hydrogel/thermoplastic combinations.

Du M; Tronci G; Yang XB; Wood DJ (2026)

[International Journal of Bioprinting](#)

Parameter Optimisation in 3D Extrusion Printing of Polyhydroxybutyrate Using Design of Experiment Methodology

Du M; Tronci G; Yang XB; Wood DJ (2026)

[J Funct Biomater](#)

The dark side of the interface: examining the influence of different background modes on cognitive performance

Gazit T; Tager-Shafir T; Zhong H-X; Hung PCK; Cheung V (2026)

[Ergonomics](#)

Influence of Color Attributes on Emotional Responses Across Fashion Fabrics: A Comparative Study of Linen, Cotton, and Silk

Han X; Xiang Q; Li L; Xiao K; Yu L (2026)

[Color Research and Application](#),

Influence of Multisensory Attributes on Emotional Responses Across Fashion Fabrics: Integrating Color Visual and Material Tactile Perception.

Han X; Xiang Q; Li L; Yuan J; Xiao K; Yu L (2026)

[Color Research and Application](#), 51, (2).

Trust in Color: Supporting the Digital Transformation of Textile Printing for Fashion and Apparel Industries

Henry P; Vazirian M; Westland S (2026)

[Fashion Practice](#)

Analysis and quantification of the propensity of hair dyes to desorb from human hair fibre using an accelerated 48-wash method

Hetherington K; Tidder A; Tack BJ; Benohoud M; Nowlan D; Zahar A;

Prater D; Zguris JC; Rayner CM; Blackburn RS (2026)

[MICROCHEMICAL JOURNAL](#)

Fabrication of a low-cost, small-footprint modular lab-scale wet spinning system

Houghton JA; Blackburn RS (2026)

[HardwareX](#)

Micro-computed tomography analysis of ring, rotor, and air jet yarn structures and their impact on fragmented fibres release from polyester textiles

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[Nondestructive Testing and Evaluation](#)

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Garment Pattern Cutting: Fundamental Techniques 

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15th – 16th July

Garment Pattern Cutting: Intermediate Techniques 

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