

SEPTEMBER 201

TEXTILE NOTES

Pantone Expands Its Library by Adding 294 Colors to Matching System

YKK Brings Eco-zipper Production to the U.S.

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TEXTILE TRENDS

Plush Cozy Cloth Night and Day The Vibe Eco-friendly Fabrics A Floral for All Seasons Delicate Delights Trouser Trends



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ACCESSORIES

Eco-friendly Zippers to Be Manufactured Stateside by YKK

After five years of manufacturing its Natulon zippers from recycled materials, the Tokyo-based notions manufacturer **YKK** announced that it will bring production of these goods to the United States. While the foundation of YKK's Natulon products has been to create products based upon manufacturing with PET bottles, unused fibers and remnants of other polyester materials, the company is looking to further reduce its carbon footprint by shrinking the distance in the apparel-production supply chain by producing these goods in Macon, Ga.



According to Brian Miller, director and business leader for pants and workwear industries at YKK U.S.A. Inc., this most recent decision by the company is simply an additional step toward the greater good, which has been a tenet of YKK's mission since its founding.

"[Ever] since YKK was founded in 1934, all of our business activities have been guided by our 'Cycle of Goodness' philosophy, which embodies our belief that no one prospers without rendering benefit to others," he explained via email. "Protecting the environment is no exception—in fact, our Environmental Pledge, which says that we will promote 'harmony with the environment as the highest priority of our business activities,' has been in effect since 1994." For every 10,000 Natulon zippers, which measure nearly 24 inches, YKK utilizes approximately 3,600 plastic bottles. By creating these products in the United States, the company will reduce its negative environmental impact and lead times to afford a more efficient supply chain to its customers. This move reduces the supply chain for YKK's denim partners that rely on the company's Natulon Material Recycled Tape for the production of jeans and related products in North and Central America.

"We feel that supporting our customers by producing our Natulon-material recycled zipper locally in Macon, Ga., is one of the best ways we can fulfill our mission as a company," Miller said.

By including Natulon under its sustainabletrim category, YKK has been able to expand beyond zipper production by also producing snaps and buttons in Lawrenceburg, Ky. These notions are finished through a more ecologically sound process that bypasses electroplating in favor of its Elements finish. This process reduces water waste and water usage by 75 percent, or 150 gallons per production cycle, eliminates chelating agents and reduces electricity. Through this method, creating these products reduces thermal energy, toxic chemicals and overall waste.

The company's commitment to becoming increasingly environmentally responsible also includes reducing carbon emissions that can be directly linked to manufacturing, in addition to indirect causes such as energy consumption at its factories, materials sourcing and transportation. Additionally, the company has offset an annual rate of 896 tons of CO_2 after installing nearly 2,000 rooftop solar modules at its Anaheim, Calif., location in 2015.

"Today, every major brand is dedicated to environmentally friendly materials and manufacturing, sustainability awareness and creating a more sustainable industry," Miller said. "They all have global corporate socialresponsibility policies. This is especially important to younger consumers."

—Dorothy Crouch

NEWS

Pantone Expands Its Library by Adding 294 Colors to Matching System

Color authority **Pantone, LLC**, recently introduced 294 colors to its library, the first addition to its Pantone Matching System since 2016. The Carlstadt, N.J., organization mentioned that by adding these trendrelevant hues it increased its library to more than 2,100 colors and affords greater crossreferencing capabilities to its Fashion, Home + Interiors system.

"We are always attuned to the changing market and the needs of our creative customers," said Adrián Fernández, vice president and general manager of Pantone. "As a result, we are excited to create an even more efficient workflow as we roll out new colors for the graphic arts and improved cross-referencing between Pantone's PMS and FHI color systems."

Along with its extensive color selection, which includes basics in neutrals, tans, grays, navy and black, Pantone said that its most recent color guides provide consistency across media, whether in physical or digital formats. By using the Pantone Extension for the **Adobe** Creative Cloud, which relies on the Adobe Exchange for Creative Cloud Marketplace, designers are able to access all PMS and FHI colors online to work on projects in real time.

"Adding the launch of the Pantone Extension for the Adobe Creative Cloud to this mix will enhance the ability to identify, communicate and verify colors both physically and digitally in the Pantone universe," Fernández said.

As the apparel industry becomes increasingly reliant on solutions that provide more-customized and immediate solutions created to help designers fulfill consumer demand, these creatives require tools that allow them to work efficiently at an increased pace.

"By integrating the full Pantone experience, including the 294 new colors added to the graphics library into Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign, the Pantone Extension for the Adobe Creative Cloud delivers simple, intuitive and collaborative color workflow management for designers," said Vijay Vachani, Adobe senior director of partner ecosystems. "Adobe and Pantone are excited to explore more opportunities to improve the everyday lives of our shared customers."—D.C.



Night and Day Italian Quality With Customization Set The contrast between black and white has Pontex SPA Apart in the U.S. Market classically been used to add dramatic effect

In 2002, when Letizia Ferretti, newly graduated, came to work at Pontex, the Modena, Italy-based cotton and linen textile company her father, Pio Ferretti, had founded 30 years earlier, she brought with her a fresh perspective about the textile market in general and Italian textile production in particular.

"The problem with many Italian companies, they thought they could be

the super best in the world," she says. Not that they weren'tbut Ferretti believed that high quality is only one factor in a now global-based sourcing and manufacturing world where

Letizia Ferretti

speed and price points are just as critical. There needed to be a different approach that would go beyond an Italian and Euro-centric view. Rather, she thought, Pontex's approach should focus on personalization of service that covers whatever a client requires while always maintaining the high quality that Italian production and finishing is known for.

"Our priority must be to serve the client, who is king," Ferretti says simply.

Now the CEO of Pontex following the passing of her father in March, Ferretti is firmly guiding the company with the outward-reaching, multi-pronged game plan she believes will allow Pontex to expand its market and client base far beyond Italian shores. The last five or six years have found the company, which specializes in taking raw or semi-finished goods and elevating and enriching the finished product with Italian taste and style, sourcing product in China, South Korea, and Japan in addition to its home country to service brands around the world.

In particular, Ferretti explains, Pontex, which produces both Summer and Fall/ Winter collections, is intent on making major inroads in the U.S. market, targeting Los Angeles and New York, among other arenas, with local agents and representatives. "This is the place where we like to do business and express ourselves nowadays," Ferretti says. "It is where we are inspired to improve ourselves-our company, our products."

Pontex could easily rest on its prestigious client list-Armani, Versace, Trussardi, Zara, Paul & Shark, Ralph Lauren, Hugo Boss, Marc Jacobs, and Tommy Hilfiger among the many notables. But, as Ferretti sees it, the key to success today is to listen to every

client's needs, at

the high end or

lower end of the

spectrum, and look to develop

solutions in a

wide range of

mean drawing

stable of Italian

weavers, dye and

on Pontex's

ways. That could



Printed checks on cords and cottons

printing houses, and subcontractors skilled in the application of resins, laminations, and double-sided finishing, or looking to the Asian market for those services. Pontex representatives China, South Korea, and Japan stand watch over quality control. The company's "deep goals," Ferretti says, are "product development and



Pio Ferretti

customization."

At the end of the day, "we aim to be quick to propose a product and develop it in Italy-or at least have Italian finishing-to add more value," Ferretti says, although customers can choose to receive semi-worked material to finish themselves.

"We must not only be quick and at a good price but be proactive," she points

out, "understanding what a customer needs and developing it as soon as possible." Providing an array of services provided in or outside Italy, but maintaining strict

Italian standards, sets Pontex apart from traditional fabric houses. "It's all based on flexibility," Ferretti says. "We can go from basic quality with a high standard to a very rich quality with a high standard. We can do anything-

finishing and producing in Italy a grade coming from China, or doing any and all processes in Italy, starting with the yarn." Pontex began as a purveyor of woven fabrics, primarily linen and cotton, for the

region's ready-to-wear market but guickly expanded its offerings according to the demands of the market. Today, it not only specializes in cotton and linen of all types

but also velvet corduroys, and silk and silk/ cotton blends. Pontex is also deep into development of a range of organic and recycled fibers and BCI cottons.



Yarn-dved stretch Japanese inspirations

"Our range of items is enormous," Ferretti attests. The company keeps in stock around 30 to 40 items, some 2 million meters, "to cover immediate requests.'

Ferretti is excited to be in the American marketplace, which the company entered three years ago. "You can learn a lot in this market," she says. "I like a lot the respect they have for Italian suppliers-a huge respect but also huge expectations. You can always do more. It imposes improvement on the company every day."

Pontex is attending all the major textile shows in the U.S. to raise its profile, and the plan is working. "Many did not know Pontex, but every day we are increasing the business," Ferretti says. "Those who try Pontex are still working with Pontex."

For the daughter of the company founder, who is charting her own path in an increasingly complex and high-stakes market, there is an abiding appreciation for her country's storied textile legacy. "The fabric must always represent Italian taste, Italian values," Ferretti says. "There is always a high standard between Italy and fashion. It's like producing something related to art. It's a fantastic feeling to see the final results."

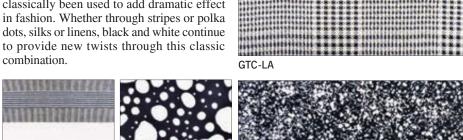


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The Vibe

Growing interest in vintage clothing has drawn attention from a new generation that is now discovering once-beloved textile trends that have come and gone in and out of style over different seasons. In particular, formerly popular designs in mod prints and tie-dye have recently reappeared on runways and on retail racks





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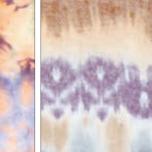


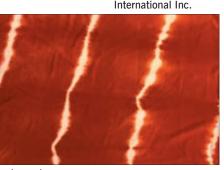




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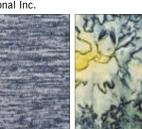
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Fall or Winter textiles, fabrics that offer season-

appropriate florals can be found year-round. They

can be used in textiles featuring bold colors or

fabrics with subtle prints, proving there is always a

season for floral textiles.

A Floral for

All Seasons

B"H

Formed by crisscrossed lines in varying widths, relying on one, two, three or more colors, plaid can be found in eight common patterns: tartan, gingham, check or checkered, madras, windowpane, houndstooth, Prince of Wales and tattersall. Enjoyed by a wide range of consumers, plaid has become a favorite of many, from suburban dads to punk-culture lovers and everyone in between.



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Functional Fabric Fair-powered by **PERFORMANCE DAYS® Brings Performance** and Sustainability to Portland

Textile shows tend to be big, sprawling affairs with booths and fabrics and whatnot spread out over seeming acres of exhibition space. Steve McCullough, a 25-year sourcing veteran of both exhibiting at and attending these events, knows well their exhausting aspect, where "you have to spend your day just trying to find the right ones," he says.

So when McCullough started going to the Performance Days, functional fabric fair in Munich, Germany, he was both surprised and much taken by what he

experienced. "I liked that it was very curated and focused," he says. "It wasn't a treasure hunt to find someone greatthey had all the greats there. I knew that the U.S. did not have this type of show."

Until now. McCullough, who is event manager for the Connecticut-based Reed Exhibitions, queried the Performance Days management if they had any interest in expanding to the U.S. The answer was a definitive yes, and a partnership was born. Officially titled



The New York show opens its doors to its second edition at the Javits Center in July 2019.

Functional Fabric Fair - Powered by PERFORMANCE DAYS®, this

functional textile show got off to an auspicious, sold-out start in July of 2018 in New York City. Now it prepares for its Portland, Oregon, debut October 22-23, showing product and technologies that will enter the market for the Winter 2021 season-a move requested by many of its exhibitors "because their customers wanted us to go there," McCullough explains. "The R&D teams for so many brands are located in and around Portland-it is such an incubator for the industry. We knew we'd

have a built-in audience." While Reed owns and

runs the show, Munich's PERFORMANCE DAYS serves as consultant. "We try to emulate the Munich show as much as we can," McCullough says. "We don't do anything without consulting them. The DNA they created we wanted to bring here."

The similarities start with the show's scope. "The beauty of the show is its size," McCullough notes. "It is not, and won't be, a 900-exhibitor show.³ Vendors are carefully



Visitors browse the Performance Forum to see a juried selection of the best products showing.

David Parkes, the founder of Concept III, conducts

chosen-"we say no more than we say yes"-with no more than 50 percent from any particular region of the world. They are interspersed -"I don't allow pavilions," says McCullough. What links the select exhibitors is the quality of their product and their standing in the performance-textile industry. They are "the movers and shakers in the industry," he points out. "By having the best exhibitors, by default

business with a customer.

you will have the best attendees.

Portland will differ from the New York fair in one distinct aspect. As McCullough explains it, "The core of Portland is performance brands the core of New York is fashion brands." Duly noting their customers' desire for performance fabrications, "typically nonperformance brands absolutely devoured what we had to offer,' he says. "You want your fabrics to do something, your suit to stretch, your



And speaking of sustainability, part and parcel of any **Functional Fabric** Fair is McCullough's insistence on lessening the industry's carbon footprint in every way possible. As McCullough explains, "We only bring in factories that exercise

The Expert Talks series highlights the latest trends and technologies in functional textiles.

as well." To that end, the fair builds all the booths itself, using walls made from recycled fabrics that will be recycled again. "We have all this strict criteria about what you can bring in to the space," he continues. For example, no Foamcore may be used for signage. "We want to be an example of how you conduct yourself as a trade-show exhibitor.

jeans to stretch. But you still want to look fashionable. The line between function

Portland is all about performance, which is why McCullough counts Nike,

swatches of their latest technology, divided into the 12 most important categories such as thermal regulation and waterproofing. A blind jury will pick the top 30 to

including color trends, sustainability, and "a deep dive" into different functionalities

50 submissions in each category. and present them on a best-of-the-best wall. There will also be a series of expert talks from guest speakers, with subjects

such as odor management and wicking. Several universities will also give talks

Adidas, Columbia, Patagonia, and The North Face among its attendees. To

further focus the exhibitor offerings, the fair will have the exhibitors submit

and fashion has become completely blurred."

These standards make for a pleasantly egalitarian atmosphere where product speaks for itself. The eventual goal for the fair is two shows in Portland, in October and April, and one in New York City in

about their textile

says

programs "to bring a

sustainable practices.

But the hard part as an

exhibition company is

that everything we do

needs to be sustainable

younger community into the industry," McCullough



A panel featuring performance-apparel powerhouses draws a standing-room-only crowd.

been sold out, and Portland has a long waiting list. With PERFORMANCE DAYS' guidance, McCullough believes he has the recipe for enduring success

"There is a beauty in the size of the show," McCullough says. "Our aisles are filled with decisionmakers, people there to do business. The 2,000 attendees are the right 2,000. There is no smoke in the aisles."



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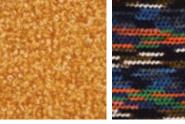
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TEXTILE TRENDS

Suitable

Once mainly worn by men, suits are now used by all to send a strong message. From classic two- and three-piece suits used to make serious statements to pieces that are combined with streetwear elements for updated suiting, incorporating suit-weight textiles brings a touch of class to clothing.







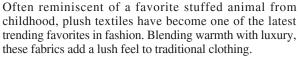
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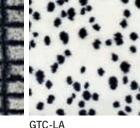
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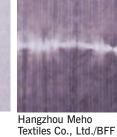


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The ever-growing emphasis on protection of the environment has given birth to sustainable textiles such as those created from bamboo, organic cotton, wood pulp and plastic water bottles. Pursuing an eco-friendly message by using responsibly created textiles garners good will from customers seeking ecologically sound alternatives to everyday products.







Studio

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TEXTILE TRENDS

Passionate Prints

Technology has boosted the popularity of printed fabrics, which are popular in everyday fashion as well as special, custom-made pieces. Often used to relay personal expression, prints allow the wearer of a garment to make a bold statement without saying a word.





FCN Textiles

Studio 93

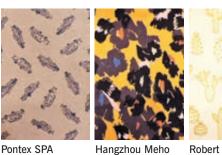


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Trouser

Trends

Studio 93



Textiles Co., Ltd./

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Robert Kaufman Robert Kaufman Fabrics

Available in different shapes and sizes, trousers are now manufactured using an array of textiles but often rely on heavier weights for Fall collections. From vintage styles that draw inspiration from Grandpa or more-modern takes in denim that yield more formal, stylish cuts with a soft hand, trouser textiles are offered in different textures and an array of colors.

Fabrics







Delicate Delights

A delicate textile, lace yields a weblike pattern that can be used as the foundation for a romantic look or incorporated as a smaller detail that softens an otherwise edgy style. Lace can be made by machine, but the finer examples are made by hand.

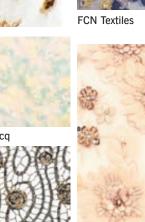








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Products and Services: For fall and winter collections, Pontex SPA skillfully weaves together yarns of cotton and silk into finished fabrics with soft and warm handfeels. For spring and summer, the Modena, Italy–based company produces extreme light weights and soft handfeels from cotton and silk, textured chiffons and organzas. Clients from around the world use Pontex fabrics in everything from dresses, loungewear, shirting, pants and jackets. Visit us at: LA Textile 10/2-4.

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Products and Services: Progressive Label is dedicated to helping companies develop and showcase their brand identity. From logo labels and hangtags to care/content labels and price tickets, we will develop, produce, and distribute your trim items worldwide. We specialize in producing custom products that will meet your design and merchandising needs. We successfully launched production of RFID price tickets last year. This demand is being greatly driven by the big retailers such as Macy's and Target. Our growth and market dynamics have resulted in opening up a production center in Tijuana, Mexico. We have also added advanced die cutter technology in our Los Angeles production center to streamline our production efforts and to strengthen our packaging capabilities. A very important part of our business is FLASHTRAK, our online ordering system for price tickets, custom products and care labels. Our mission is to deliver high-quality products at competitive prices, wherever they are needed for production. We understand the rush nature of this industry and strive to meet the tight deadlines facing our customers.

RC International Fabrics Inc.

3001 S. Main St. Los Angeles, CA 90007 (213) 200-4957 Fax: (213) 744-0940 info@rcfab.net www.rcfab.net www.armentdyefabrics.com

Products and Services: R.C. International Fabrics, Inc. has been inspiring the fashion industry since 1990. We are an importer and converter of domestic knit and woven fabrics carrying novelties and basic items such as gauze, voile, lawn, poplin, twill, corduroy, denims, tencel, chambray, rayon, embroidery, linen, and much more. We have solids, yarn dyes, and textures in Stretch and non-stretch. ALL IN STOCK in Los Angeles with low minimums. We also specialize in PFD (Prepared For Garment dye) fabrics and stocking woven fabrics is our niche. Visit us at the L.A. Textile show Oct. 2-4, California Market Center, Booth #907.

Robert Kaufman Fabrics

129 West 132nd St. Los Angeles, CA 90061 (800) 877-2066 Fax: (310) 538-9235 www.robertkaufman.com info@robertkaufman.com

Products and Services: Robert Kaufman Co., Inc. is an importer and converter with national and international representation, stocking a wide variety of printed, yarn-dyed, and solid wovens and knits as well as denims. In business for over 70 years, Robert Kaufman Fabrics has been delivering the highest-quality service to manufacturing clients in the U.S. and around the world in a variety of markets, including childrenswear, womenswear, contemporary, juniors, men's sportswear, maternity, uniforms, special occasion, accessories, and home fashions. In addition to an extensive catalog of on-trend design collections released every quarter, we offer domestic in-stock programs with low minimums as well as customized fabric design, development, and sourcing for prints, yarn-dyes, and solids. All fabrics are available for sampling. We also drop ship for customers with off-shore production needs. Robert Kaufman Fabrics sells wholesale and to the trade only.

Spirit Lace Enterprise

1301 S. Main St., #232 Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 689-1999 info@spiritlace.com www.spiritlace.com Products and Services: Ou

Products and Services: Our fabrics and textiles are carefully chosen from around the world, mainly European and Asian regions. We also help clients to design and develop fabric patterns for a on brand experience with exclusivity offered. To design and develop your own unique fabrics might take from three weeks or more. We carry different types of laces and embroideries such as Chantilly lace, Alençon lace, all over embroideries with or without beads, embroidered fabric with 3-dimensional appliques, handmade appliques, tulles, trims, etc. We work with Bridal designers, Haute Couture fashion houses as well as high end Ready To Wear brands. Most of our articles have sample yardage in stock available for p/u or delivery. Our collection is updated according to forecasting trends every season. Visit us at L.A. Textile show, from Oct. 2–4 at the California Market Center, booth #307. Come say hi and get inspired!

Texollini

2575 El Presidio St. Long Beach, CA 90810 (310) 537-3400 www.texollini.com

Products and Services: Capabilities that inspire. For 30 years, we have manufactured our collection of more than 5,000 European-quality fabrics in our Los Angeles-based facility. We offer faster deliveries, superior quality control, and vertically-integrated services (including circular knitting, design, R&D, dyeing, printing, and finishing) for all major fashion categories. Contact us now to find out how we can help you #EmpowerFashion.



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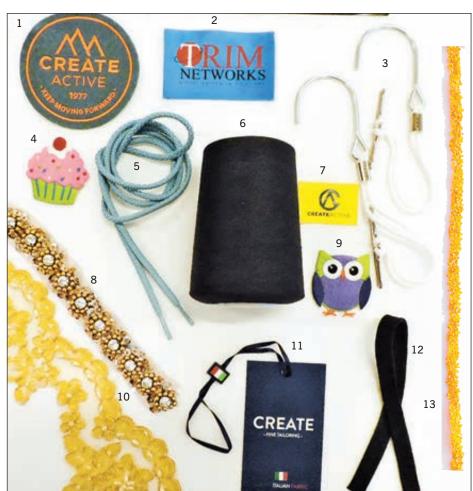
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