

The story of textile resources on display - Natural Fiber Composites developing - Awards for designers of new materials



Past, present and future in textile resources

Synthetic fibers made out of corn starch. Simple, old fashioned wool. A carpet woven of paper yarn, and light conductive textiles. Discover the 'Textielwarenkast': a journey through the past, present and future of textile resources, their processing and applications. The 'Textielwarenkast', a cabinet that literally shows the story of textile and its resources, is composed by Material Sense's Simone de Waart and commissioned by the Audax Textile Museum at Tilburg.

The cabinet is based on the inherited TNO collection, that ended in the late seventies. De Waart curated the collection and updated it with current and future resources and applications, painting a vivid picture of 38 textile resources and their use in fashion, interior design, sports and technical textiles.

Education is the main purpose of the cabinet. De Waart kept the information needs of designers and students in mind while composing. 'What is it a student or designer would really like to know about materials?' De Waart enjoyed diving into the past and discovering sometimes half-forgotten materials. 'Besides some fascinatingly decomposed stuff, I found real gems, like wool made out of milk. And non-woven shoe polishing cloths, taken back from the Unites States by a fiber researcher. Researching felt like travelling back in time, and I could clearly sense the passion for materials. That passion still shows in the current display.'

The 'Textielwarenkast' is on permanent display at the library of the Audax Textile Museum, Goirkestraat 96, Tilburg.

The accompanying book 'Grondstoffen gisteren, vandaag en morgen' will be available soon via the [Textile Museum](#) (the book is only available in Dutch).



Bamboestengels op de plantage



Bamboewool

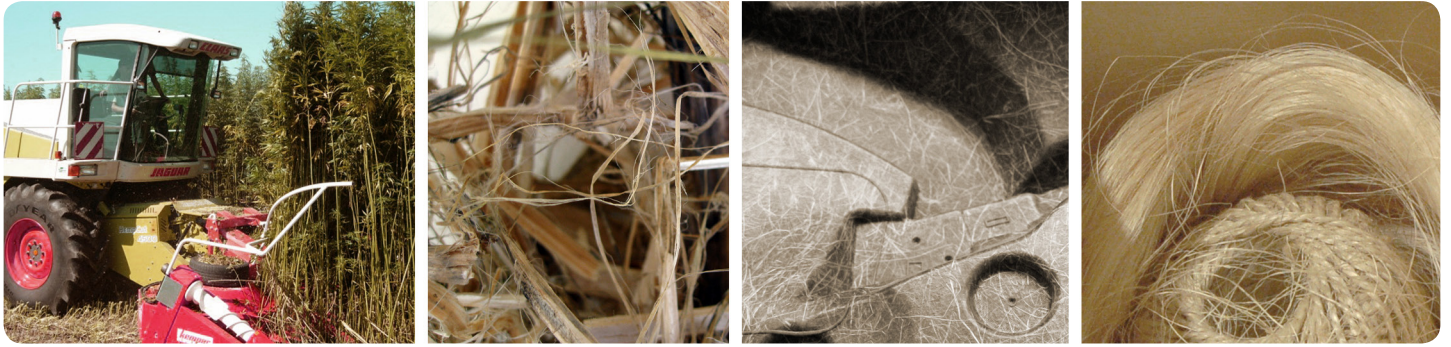
Ook bamboe valt onder de viscose soorten die van natuurlijke basisstoffen zijn gemaakt. Bamboe is een snelgroeiende grasoort die vooral in China, maar ook in Afrika groeit. Twee soorten vezels worden gebruikt om van bamboe textiel te maken. De natuurlijke bamboe die direct als vezels van de stammen af wordt gehaald en bamboe linnen wordt genoemd en de bamboe viscose, die vanuit een vloeibare oplossing van bamboe wordt gemaakt. De bamboe viscose vind je vooral in de kleding die nu in de winkels te koop is. Het merendeel ervan is in China gemaakt. De vezel is goedkoper dan katoen, omdat de grasoort bamboe heel snel groeit en makkelijk te oogsten is.

Eigenschappen en toepassingen van bamboe

Positieve eigenschappen zoals de enorm snelle groei en de vermenigvuldiging van de grasoort (de wortels groeien onder de grond uit tot een nieuwe plant en hoeven dus niet zoals bomen steeds opnieuw te worden geplant) maken deze hernieuwbare grondstof, die ook op milieuvriendelijke wijze kan worden verwerkt, tot een duurzaam alternatief voor vezels. De holle vezels creëren een comfortabel draagbaar textiel, koel en ademend en hebben van nature antibacteriële eigenschappen. Bamboe kan concurreren met katoen en helpt bovendien de lokale bevolking aan inkomsten. Bamboe wordt gebruikt in matrastijken en in diverse soorten kleding. Door het fijne draagcomfort wordt deze vezel in onderkleding en bijvoorbeeld sokken toegepast.



Textielwarenkast
Grondstoffen voor
textiel gisteren,
vandaag en morgen



Promoting natural fiber composites

Coconut egg packaging, a car door reinforced with flax and hemp: Material Sense promotes natural fiber composites, which showed in our last exhibition Rematerialize the Future. Natural fiber composite is a combination of natural fibers such as coconut, hemp, flax and (bio) resin. It is versatile and sustainable, and according to us, the use of natural fiber composite should be encouraged.

That is why Material Sense is part of the core group of the Platform for Natural Fiber Composites, an initiative of the Faculty of Industrial Design at the TU Delft and Zylon International, with support from Agentschap NL. The first seminar started on April 7, a first step towards the process of developing a design tool, workshops and projects.

Natural fiber composite has unique properties. It is a sustainable alternative to fiberglass reinforced plastic, and can be used as a renewable filler for plastics, reducing the amount of fossil fuels needed. Being a renewable resource, natural fiber composite can contribute to a solution for future shortage of resources.

The examples of various uses of hemp and flax, and more, can be found in our booklet Rematerialize the future, which can be ordered through our website www.materialsense.com.



Awards for new materials

A challenge for designers, developers and manufacturers: the German **IF Material Award** invites them to register new materials that are innovative, smart and somehow make a difference. There are four different categories, registration ends on August 31, 2011. For more information and registration: www.ifdesign.de.



Sustainability, form, function and innovation are rewarded in the **DOEN Material Prize** for artists, designers, fashion designers and architects. Registration closed on June 10, the two winners will be announced on the opening day of the Dutch Design Week. There will also be a selection of entries on display.

'Material Sense' becomes new umbrella name

Last January, 'Material Sense' became the umbrella name for all our activities, including all activities by Loods 5 Ontwerpers. The former email addresses of Loods 5 ontwerpers are replaced by the general email address mail@materialsense.com, and personal addresses simone@materialsense.com and patrick@materialsense.com.
Team Material Sense wishes you a sensational summer!