

Looking for winners #2

For those in the northern hemisphere, winter 2000/2001 is still with us and taking a great deal of time to go away. In the southern hemisphere, weather patterns have been just as mixed, with drought, floods, and fires all taking their toll. Ignoring all the vicissitudes which have the ability to disrupt sporting endeavour, the textile world has its eyes firmly fixed on 2002 and 2003.

Expofil, the major European and increasingly international yarn show (non-Europeans in December 2000 accounted for 20% of all visitors), based in Paris (moving to its new exhibition venue at the Parc des Expositions de Paris-Nord Villepinte, June 5-7), will provide much of the industry with its first preview of autumn/winter 2003. The key yarn colours are featured here although the fabrics they will influence will not be seen until September/October this year.

Ahead of the mills and their March presentations, Summer 2002 colours were translated into material form by the exhibition's fashion team, led by Sylvie Tastemain, Expofil's fashion director. Introduced in December 2000,

(above) Five themes for summer 2002 have been developed by the style agency for Mod'Amont to complement the fabric collections to be shown at Premiere Vision. Both shows take place March 1-4. Illustrated here is its Variable Geometry theme for sportswear, concepts for straps and fasteners, ergonomic footwear and clothing.



Tactel Yarn Vision 2002-03, image taken from the 'Hair to Distinguish' theme.

summer 2002 promises to be a rich season, both refreshing and decidedly optimistic, according to her, with the pursuit of lightness being one of the principal motivations. This trend would certainly seem to match the desires expressed by the producers of sports activewear. There was also an emphasis on the importance of natural looks and handles, whether achieved with pure fibres or with mixtures of natural, synthetic and artificial yarns.

When the sports and leisure collections of summer 2002 eventually hit the retail outlets, it will be interesting to compare the end results with the starting points.

Based on current design thinking, two strong themes were emerging. First, a clear, clean and compact trend and, second, a more worn, faded, rustling, dried plant look. In the words of Ms Tastemain, summer 2002 will be "characterised by the conspicuous return of plain yarns, that are both neat and rigorous, but, depending on the materials used, create the illusion of fantasy."

David Buirski



Tactel Yarn Vision 2002-03, image taken from the 'Alternative Beauty' theme.