

Participants Like Leather – alternatives to leather

Create new value

Buxkin - Upholstery for walls, floors and panels

Buxkin supplies various coverings for walls, floors and panels, based on recycled materials such as leather and felt. Delivered on a roll, 1.20 m wide. The result is an aesthetically high-quality product with interesting acoustic benefits and available in various colours, perforations and embossments. A full substitute for real leather.

Julie van den Boorn – Compo Leather

Julie van den Boorn shredded used leather goods, mixed it with water and pressed the pulp into moulds to dry. The new material, which she called Compo Leather, appeared to attach without extra binder and is therefore still 100% natural. The smell is also that of leather. Multiple applications are possible, such as car interiors.

Agnieska Mazur-Medina

Not only the craft of leather processing got the attention of Agnieska Mazur during a trip to Morocco, but also the remnants that remain. She made a few tapestries by hand from leftovers of leather, which she named Medina. The patterns arise more or less by chance, as a result of the availability of the material. Imperfection as the basis for new beauty.

Hung Sheng Lee - The Beauty of Sickness

Is it leather, is it skin, is it textile? Under the title The Beauty of Sickness, Hung Seng Lee designed a collection of soft, skin-like fabrics with textures, colors and structures that are inspired by diseases such as measles and stains and deformities that result from different forms of neurofibromatosis – a disorder of skin and nerves. Thus, these defects of the skin transform into beautiful imperfections.

Slaughter waste

Studio Nienke Hoogvliet - Re-Sea-Me

Nienke Hoogvliet wants to make people aware of the pollution of the sea and wants to show that there are possibilities for sustainable use of products from the same sea. Using old handicraft techniques, she tanned fish skin, without chemicals, and designed a stool with fish leather to show the possibilities of this strong, durable and beautiful material.

NYVIDD - Fish Leather

The ancient Egyptians, peoples in Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Lapland, were already making full use of fish leather for clothing, footwear and upholstery of objects. NYVIDD, one of the partners of Yksi Expo, not only brings fish leather from Iceland onto the market, but also wants to stimulate the use of this beautiful, natural material, both for designers and producers as well as consumers.

Shahar Livne - nat-2, sneakers from bio leather

Waste from slaughterhouses such as fat and bones, with blood as colorant and plasticizer. Napa leather and glass, rubber for the outsole and cork for the insole. Together with the German designer Sebastiaan Thies, Sharar Livne created handmade sneakers from waste products, residues and natural materials. A kind of bio leather, as she calls it herself.

Mies Loogman - Wild Leather

Every year, thousands of wild boars are shot in the Netherlands for safety reasons. The meat is eaten, but the skins are discarded. Mies Loogman, who graduated from Design Academy Eindhoven in 2017, has developed various tanning methods to use these skins. Wild Leather was developed in collaboration with Ecco Leather, Dongen.

Billie van Katwijk - Ventri

Cow stomachs are usually thrown out or – at best – processed into dog food. Billie van Katwijk studied the richness of textures and specific properties in each of the four parts of a cow's stomach and developed a process for turning bovine gut into a material that can be used for veracious applications. Through a labor-intensive tanning process, she arrived at the leather collection Ventri with a unique aesthetic.

Plant Power

Sarmite Polakova - PINEskins

The pine tree, the most common tree in the northern hemisphere, is particularly appreciated for its cheap timber. A one-sided, industrial approach that has made forests into wood factories. But the bark also lends itself to beautiful products. Through a special treatment - with natural ingredients - Sarmite Polakova gave this soft material leathery properties with a lifespan of a few years.

reWrap - Tree Bag

The young Dutch brand reWrap stands for stylish products made of natural materials that are completely biodegradable. Fully sustainable design according to the cradle to cradle principle is combined with quality, beauty and elegance. One of the products is the Tree Bag, made entirely from tree materials. The bag can end up on the compost heap to be broken down in a natural way.

Qwstion - Bananatex

Three years of research and development resulted in a new material for backpacks that combines ecological, economic and social sustainability. Together with a yarn specialist and a weaving mill from Taiwan, the Swiss company Qwstion developed the material Bananatex. Made from sustainable, without chemicals grown banana plants from the Philippines, where farmers get a fair price.

Clara Roussel - A journey into poplar bark

The poplar has no good reputation in the Netherlands when it comes to the quality of the wood; we also speak of 'windrow wood'. Without protection, it is quickly affected. Clara Roussel applied textile techniques to the bark of poplars and discovered unexpected qualities during this journey: a highly resistant fibre, a special colour and an interesting reaction to light.

Danielle Ooms - Apple based material

As a graduation project for her Bachelor's degree in Industrial Design at the University of Technology Eindhoven, Danielle Ooms developed a material based on apples. It has a fascinating, slightly translucent appearance and gives a pleasant feeling. She designed several pieces of clothing based on the new, completely organic material.

Atelier La Gadoue - Tchouc

Audrey Werthle and Eloïse Maës, graduated from the Design Academy Eindhoven, together form atelier La Gadoue in Brussels. The bag collection Tchouc is the result of their research into natural rubber coating on linen canvas. This new composite material offers a vegetable alternative to leather. It is waterproof, sufficiently strong, functional and easy to handle.

Notebook - Coffee Based

Every year an estimated 120-150 million kilos of coffee grounds remain in the Netherlands, a large proportion of which is incinerated. Coffee Based, based in BlueCity in Rotterdam, wants to make bio-based products from coffee, for example in collaboration with Maas (vending machines). The first product is a notebook with a cover made from the coffee waste of 1 cup of coffee.

Conscious Leather Foundation, a new platform

Conscious Leather Foundation

- brings together initiatives in the field of sustainable leather and alternatives for leather, and wants to share this knowledge and expertise as much as possible.
- connects designers and industry to make production processes more sustainable and to accelerate the development of alternatives.
- raises awareness through events such as exhibitions.

The Conscious Leather Foundation is initiated by Leonne Cuppen (Yksi Connect, intermediary and innovator), Simon Angel (designer and consultant for sustainable innovations) and Cees van de Ven (owner Nyvidd, a fish skin company).

Alternatives to leather from the Material District library

The material library was developed by Material District- Els Zijlstra. In this environment you can search for the most inspiring and innovative materials and their distinctive properties. Els Zijlstra made a selection of 40 replacement materials for this exhibition.