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Texas State University Honors Program

The University Honors Program at Texas State University provides small, stimulating classes taught by master teacher-scholars who employ innovative teaching methods. Dialogue and interaction among University Honors faculty and students provides a crucible within which students forge a life of meaning.

<http://www.txstate.edu/honors/>

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Fibers to Fabric Honors Course Spring 2009

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Project Sustainability: Choose Your Own Apocalypse



Sustainable Design

Eco-fashion is more than just picking the latest trendy fiber or using low-impact dyeing. Designing from cradle to grave means keeping the final disposal of the products in mind during the design process. Designing from cradle to cradle means planning for the product to be reborn as something new. The goal of Project Sustainability is to explore the challenges of recycling apparel products into new products.



Choose Your Own Apocalypse

Students were challenged to choose a post-apocalyptic scenario and then create a textile product that would be useful in this scenario. The students in this class were not design students and came from a variety of disciplines across campus.

Why Apocalypse?

Post-Apocalyptic science fiction writers have long created visions of worlds in which supply chains are broken and human beings have to deal with new design challenges.

Some of the chosen post-apocalyptic scenarios included: "Alone in the Woods", "Water Everywhere", "World on Fire", "Blockade", "Old School Biblical".

After choosing their apocalypse, the students completely deconstructed a textile product to use as raw material for their new design. Items such as sweatpants, a laundry bag, a silk dress, or a raincoat were taken apart and explored for a source of design inspiration.

Following brainstorming exercises, practice patterns were made and new techniques were explored. In keeping with the theme, students were not allowed to use sewing machines.

A wedding dress became a whip for self-defense, an umbrella became flippers, a suit coat was transformed into badge of individuality.

