

Report --IFFTI Faculty Exchange Initiative

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Faculty was selected by IFFTI and visited RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia from 3rd October to 15th Oct. 2016 under IFFTI Faculty Exchange Initiative which is an honorarium scheme. The below report will summarize lectures presented, industries visited, participation in events and other activities taken up during the international exchange.

Objective:

The objective of the initiative was to explore and exchange knowledge and skills in specialist areas of fashion education, widen cultural understanding in the area of design education by interaction with faculty and students of the host institute. Two major areas were focused on during this visit:

Learning Methodology

Collaborative design research

Matching education opportunities

The objectives mentioned above were achieved through the below mentioned activities and participations:

Fashion education methodology in RMIT : During various interactions with the students and the faculty concerned, key areas of design education like evaluation parameters, presentation trends, design research and documentation, latest infrastructure of RMIT, research and technical textiles, learning opportunities, nature of assignments , actual client study, faculty expertise and competency, student's placements opportunities, students and industry interactions etc. were explored.

Matching opportunities of learning between Australia and India: India has roots into the age old crafts of print, weaving and embroidery and at the same time it offered manufacturing facilities for export market in the areas of fashion apparel and accessories whereas Australian fashion market has been constantly looking at sustainable and ethical supply chains for its innovative designs. India has been an important sourcing hub for fashion apparel and home accessories, during the exchange initiative key areas like ethical supply chain, slow fashion, ethical consumption, organic and handmade, craft explorations for contemporary fashion markets and cultural understanding was explored for common pool of learning.

Day 1

Introduction to the faculty of various departments of Brunswick campus, (Contact Person: Tina Gulielmino , Deputy Head Vocational Education & Training,). Infrastructure and machinery provided to strengthening better learning was shown across various departments. Introduction to faculty helped in tracing common interests and confirming to interaction sessions across different departments.

It was followed by a visit to the resource center of RMIT that covers a wide range of online resources and services for holistic learning. The library was not just a voluminous source of information but was extensive and highly interactive. It was interesting to see various reference material that didn't have direct concern with the subjects taught in the institute but are still placed as an important segment for its multi-dimensional understanding.



Day 2 Flat lay photo-shoots, Diploma of Fashion Styling (Contact person : Anni Juracich)—The workshop was conducted by the fashion stylist ,Ms. Biyanka, for the diploma students . It was a very exciting session about visual story building which is catching up in the print and social media across various fashion segments.



Flat Lay photo shoot

Meeting the Director, Centre for Advanced Materials and Performance Textiles (Contact person : Prof. Rajiv Padhye): A very informative discussion that took place helped in knowing about various design research projects done by RMIT for a spectrum of customers and possibilities for common research areas were explored.

Day 3

Meeting with Chris Clark, Program Manager: Associate Degree in Fashion and Textile, Merchandising and Certi IV in Custom Made Footwear: The discussion evolved around a meaningful course contents which have been drafted as per industry's requirements and various interactions with the industry professionals from time to time



The sensory play project work

Display by first year BATD structure students: Their sensory play project work from Contact person (Emma Lynas), Design thinking and explorations by the students were not just limited to yarns and fabrics but extended to multiple techniques adopting material explorations. Conceptual learning and

expression were scaled during discussion with students. The interaction will help tracing changes in design methodology across institutes and curricula

Day 4

Professional Practice students & their presentations: (Program name: Associate Degree in fashion Design & Technology), Contact person: Deborah Ives; As a jury member I came across a very detailed and impressive brand study which resulted into meaningful and creative design collection by each student. Research outcome was based on ethical and sustainable opportunities for sourcing in overseas markets.

Felt Workshop for Textile students: Contact person: Ms.Su (Textile Design). Design workshop for experimental textile was attended. Felting as one of the fabric techniques was explored with design ideas of the students; their enthusiasm and faculty's dedication was highly commendable.

Natural Dye workshop by Ms. Su : Demonstration and discussion on the subject encouraging natural and organic aspects of global demand , along with visit to the dyeing labs, swatch explorations ,Indian practices for natural dyes was impressive and knowledge enhancing. Some sustainable natural dye practices in India were discussed with students.



Students exploring design ideas with felt.

Day 5

Interactive lecture by Rakhi Wahee Pratap to First year BATD students on Textile Practice & Theory (sustainability focus) Contact person: Amy Carr Bottomley - Interactive presentation titled "Ritual and Spiritual textiles of India into Contemporary fashion " was presented . Emphasized that NIFT provides

platform for craft based interaction programs to international institutes with a focus on mutual development. This enlightens and strengthens not just the local craft but even promotes global understanding of various techniques by all. And as for us, it could encourage new trends towards “Made in India”... a brief introduction was given to the students on the scheme and were welcomed for such interactions. Various craft opportunities for global fashion trends were discussed.]



Phulkari

Phulkari -- Embroidered Heirlooms from Punjab

- The craft received the royal patronage during the regime of Maharaja Ranjett Singh that provided security and stability to the state from foreign invaders, various arts, architecture, music and varied folk crafts were promoted.
- "Phul" means flower and "Kari" means work, therefore it was interpreted as "floral work" with the use of thread...
- 'Phulkari' was a domestic art entirely done by women, only for personal use.
- Various sentiments and beliefs signify the reason for embroidering these textile products. It was used for the wedding, after the birth of child, during festivals, at the public places, ceremonies and even at the time of death.

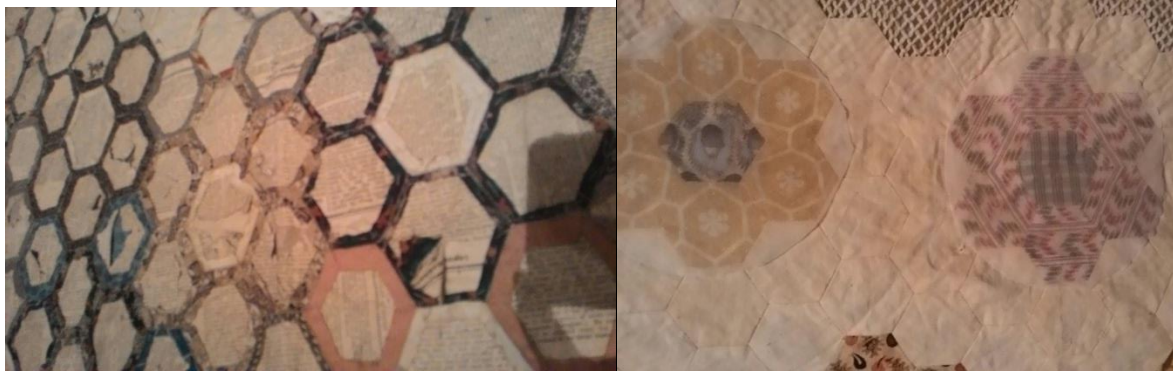
Faculty

presentation

Overwhelming response was received by the students. The young inquisitive minds agreed that mapping languishing crafts and incorporating them into contemporary fashion will not also bring a new look but also help in creating sustainable society.

Visited World Skill competition at Melbourne Grounds. World Skills competition acknowledges and recognizes various skills required in day to day life to raise recognition of skilled professionals worldwide.

Day 6



Visit to NGV: Making the Australian Quilt: 1800–1950, is the first major exhibition of its kind to bring together the rich works that constitute Australia's quilt heritage. Exclusive to Melbourne, the exhibition included more than eighty works from around the country. Skillfully quilted jackets, gowns, head gears, accessories, soft furnishings were showcased by renowned makers Mary Jane Hannaford, Marianne Gibson and Amelia Brown. Alongside a number of recently discovered pieces not exhibited before. Various techniques like prints, patch work, embroidery etc. were incorporated along with quilting techniques. It was a rare opportunity to witness a high level of craftsmanship and design understanding.

Exhibition of an extensive collection of paintings, ceramics and tapestry work based on the paintings by John Olsen was also visited. Australian landscape as his inspiration was clearly evident in his work.

Mirdidinggathi Juwarnda, an exhibition of creative work by Sally Gabori

It is an exhibition of contemporary Indigenous works, the works of senior male and female artists from the Western Desert, the Kimberley and the Tiwi Islands since 1990 till date.



Day 8

Discussion on and presentation of Fashion Design concepts, FD Sem 2 , Contact person : Lorna

Program: BH103- 2nd year Contact person: Denise Sprynskyj --- Concept building and its evolution into creative and meaningful apparel design was presented by the students and it was interesting to see the final illustrations as per trends.

Meeting with Dr Angela Finn (PhD) ----- Through a meaningful interaction, future possibilities of common learning pool was discussed along with key issues of design research and craft practice.

BP121 BATD year 2 studio - Linen House Industry project - Contact person: Verity Prideaux—RMIT believes in learning through real client's experience , LINEN HOUSE is a known name in home furnishing and includes student assignments based on print design and shares expert lectures across various briefing sessions. During this final session , print concept building to the final collection was presented by the students which helped in understanding the learning outcomes across different institutions.



Day 9

Program name and activity: Print workshop , Contact person : Verity Prideaux .

Program name and activity: BP121 BATD final year students' milestone presentations (Textile Professional Practice.) Contact person: Claire Beale.

Program name --Fashion & Textile, Jane Morley(3rd and 4th year)

Day 10

Program name and activity: City Campus, Swanston (Fashion Student-- Semester 4 students) Contact Person: Denise Sprynskyj. Individual discussions were conducted with the students for their final collections incorporating crafts and sustainable practices. Ethical practices across different cultures, issues related to sustainable raw material and its sourcing was discussed. Final year students explained specific collections based on “up-cycling” and various surface embellishments which can be achieved on domestic scale which may further explore possibilities of special boutiques based on re- cycling.

Industry Visit: Visit to IKEA for brand and market study. The brand is known worldwide for its attractive and innovative designs with functional aspect and product range. Vast product categories, visual display, thematic collections, space utilization, quality and functional aspects of design was extremely impressive.



SVÄRTAN collection in IKEA was on display which is created in collaboration with Swedish textile designer and Indian fashion students, SVÄRTAN is a collection that expresses modern India through texture, pattern and a monochrome palette.

Day 11

Fashion Show by Semester 4 (Fashion Design Students) Glimpses of the final collection by the sem-4 students.

Program name and activity: Textile Design and Development. Contact person: Lucy Adam (Print studio class with second year students). In-depth discussion with the faculty regarding sustainable practices and teaching methodology took place. Issues relating to subject limitation and applications were discussed along with the proposals and possibilities for sustainable design research. The session would

certainly fortify the faculty and make them focus on innovation, need and the changing trends.



Inculcating ethical production by creating waste fabric bin for further design ideation.

Musical concert organized under Sound & Colours Series 2 was a very enthralling experience. It was staged in **Australian Tapestry work shop** which had exhibited some of the tapestry masterpieces that were based on the artworks of eminent artists, designers and architects from Australia. Vital record of how each tapestry was planned and executed was showcased. ATW senior weavers Sue Batten and Chris Cochius 's magnificent tapestry **Gordian Knot** designed by British artist, and Turner Prize winner Keith Tyson was the main attraction of the display . The experience will surely bring life to my classes based on the subject





Gordian Knot Tapestry

Day 12

Visited Fashion apparel and Home Fashion retail outlets in Melbourne City (ZARA, Laura Ashley , Supre, Forever new, Target, etc.)to view the latest design trends in home fashion Industry and apparel.



Laura Ashley prints.

Visited private exhibition of alumina of RMIT University showcasing digital printed designs for the contemporary market.

The report will be incomplete if the support and contribution of Ms. Julia Raath (Faculty, Ex- RMIT and a visiting faculty to NIFT , India) is not mentioned . Her constant support has not just made the stay comfortable but also helped me understanding various queries related to country's fashion industries, fashion education system, environment conscious society, opportunities and country's cultural diversity. As an expert in print design, her keen observation and interest in natural dyes has given me knowledge to take back home and share with my students and faculty.



Environment conscious society

Natural dyeing by Ms. Julia Raath

KEY LEARNING

The initiative helped building relationships with design experts for common learning grounds across a different culture.

Proposed opportunities to learn handy crafts and handloom existing in and around Hyderabad, new design ranges can be created for the international market by students' interactions.

It has been a wholesome and actual learning experience which is enriching than any other virtual form.

Submitted by:

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