

A Study on Trend of High-Tech fabrics in the 1990s

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The fabric is recognized as an important trend leading the fashion, and as a way of styling by playing an important roll in changing the form, while the fashion has risen as a sensational industry drawing near the late 20th Century. Furthermore, it is the most important means to realize fashion image of the future. The prominent textile trend of the 1990s is expressed with the concept of break down in genre and the materials with various nature are expressed as different forms with new physical properties under the concept of fusion. 1990s new technology is exploited not only for the materials and techniques but also for inspiration.

High-tech fabric, defined as new fabric, is to be the one that can show the characteristic quality of texture and effects unlike the other usual natural fabrics. Also every fabric that has high-quality texture, sensibility and functional features are called as the high-tech fabrics. It is permanent, durable and almost as light as a second skin and has great excellence in expressing various surface texture and organic effects. High-tech fabrics, developed since late 1980's, are designated as a next generation fabric, distinct from the existing textiles but unique and peculiar fiber. The new technological textiles are no longer seen as cheap substitutes for luxury fabrics. The sense of fabric combined with the new-technology has aroused new mechanism based on the development of electronics industry and high scientific technique in the 1980's. The Japanese designers, such as Comme des Garcons, Issey Miyake and Junya Watanabe, became the originators who have accomplished high-tech model as the modern image combined with various high-technologies to the fabrics. In 1990's, new high-tech fabrics went on usual and universal era by the rapid progressive development of technology together with the variety and revealed as the major trend with couture collection as well as ready-to-wear. It destroys a stereotype on the fabric, relating the variety concerned of human sensibility and environmental friendliness based on the functional viewpoint. It is becoming the source of creative conception for the original fashion design. Nowadays, in expressing the creative style, who has created the fashion style by using the new fabrics is more important than what kind of silhouette or style is used.

1990's new high-tech fabric got to have light, small, durable, simple in production and low in price features. Such phenomenon made designers to use the new influence who wished to express the relax look concentrated on simplicity, purity and comfort which were most importantly required in the 1990's, the mental values. Also, convenience added inherent image of fashion has influenced especially American sportswear designers who consider the high-tech image is based on the comfort. The function related with the fashion style, and demand for the performance and

affirmative value of the everyday life in the late 20th Century were introduced as a part of the fashion by the function based on the moderate decoration and structural simplicity presented in the sportswear. Fabrics for the sportswear, usually seen in the active wear item, were progressively applied and new high-tech fabrics have been raised. In the late 1990's, with the expectation of the new millennium and development of new fabrics, the futurism fabric has come out. Flexibility, lightweight, smooth touch, glossy processing including the new synthetic factor were effectively expressed, and skin touched feeling fabric was used to create the basic look.

The trend of high-tech fabrics in 90s has been developed as various inspirations of designers not recognizing the limit of design. The high-tech concept made possible to express the freshness for all designers, and the meaning of high-tech expressed by several avant-garde designers has presented the style that contains the futuristic message. The improvement of fabric technology has greatly influenced the shape of clothing, expressing the simplicity high-technically and creating original shaping of high-tech to emphasize on the texture of fabrics. Like this, 1990's feature of high-tech concept started from the concept of break down in genre and developed as a fusion concept through various effects and mixture with the other fabrics rather than just one physical property, and situated as an obvious trend in effects and style of design based on the development of new fabrics. Moreover, the view of aesthetic and ergonomic engineering design and shaping has risen and expressed the maximum functional and protective features.

The fabric for clothing is the basis of fashion industry. Not only it is the most basic material for creating beautiful style, but also it is a plain expression which helps to newly create the fashion industry by applying functional and hygienic fabric possible. While development of new fabric is spreading, the synthetic fiber makers are developing technology by various fields and factors, and fabric that has new functions and sensitivity to begin applying it to the new fabric for clothing. Especially, recent fabric trend is based on the stretch textiles, and newly developed microfiber and regenerated fiber are being shown up as important fibers of future fabric in the textile industry with concern. Also, natural fiber is being strengthened of its intensity blended with various synthetics for the increase of functional and active quality, improved of its easy care and essential functions, and changed of the shape and texture. As well as, bonded fabric, such as double face, reversible and sandwich fabric, mixed with essence of various fabrics is becoming the matter of concern. The processing methods like bonding making simply washable, creating nice silhouette, giving wrinkle free, changing the texture of fabrics by thermoplastics, and improving wash & wear characteristics are being added to help accomplishing the development of textile through various kinds of bonding.

Thus, the trend of 1990's high-tech fabrics had been shown up as a new basic fabric through 1960's remarkable style created with the new synthetic fiber which became the concept of wearable technologies with its basic style and popularity. The most successful development of high-tech fabrics is blends of the traditional with new. These days, being related closer and closer to the life style of the human, it expresses various textures and quality touch, improves functional

features. It is also recognized as a concept of healing and obviously said to be a second skin. Characteristics and physical properties that high-tech fabrics gives are regarded as the most important factors in the fashion industry of the 21st Century and there is no doubt that improving technologies will heighten various values.