

THAI TRADITION AND SUSTAINABILITY INSPIRE MARÍA LAFUENTE'S COLLECTION



The Spanish fashion designer María Lafuente presented her, retro-futuristic collection , 'Fah-Pratan' ('A gift from heaven') inspired by Thai nature, culture, textile handicraft and architecture and a sustainable side of fashion.

Besides silk from Thailand, the designer also used fabrics made from PEFC-certified forest fibres, such as lyocell and viscose, supplied by Textil Santanderina. These fibres come from forests which have been managed sustainably, respecting rigorous environmental, social and economic requirements and are transformed in Textil Santanderina in a vertical certified-process from the raw material into pulp, yarn and manufacture fabric.

Then, Maria Lafuente creates her magnificent garments with those comfortable, versatile and light textiles. Her commitment with PEFC-certified fibres has always been in the heart of her collections.

Combining sustainability with empowerment

The empowerment of women was vital in the production of María Lafuente's collection. The designer chose Lal La Buya, an organization which works with women at risk of social exclusion, for tailoring the clothes.

Women of the Royal Silk Foundation in Thailand produced the silk, while craftswomen from the Spanish region of Asturias processed the wool for Feltai. The wool used in the collection comes from the Xalda sheep, a native breed that is of great environmental and cultural value. This choice goes hand in hand with the intentions of PEFC certification, which promotes gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, and strives towards achieving living wages to advance sustainable livelihoods.

María Lafuente is a pioneer committed designer, but also leading sustainable brands and fashion consortiums are increasingly concerned about the environmental and social impacts associated with the textile industry.

Renewable and responsibly sourced wood fibers are part of the solution to transform fashion into a more sustainable industry.



New technologies mean we can now use wood fibers to produce recyclable, renewable and biodegradable textiles. These materials are environmentally friendly, requiring considerably less energy and water to produce compared to cotton and synthetic fibers, that is around 1/3 of the energy and 60 times less water.

Yet forests provide us with so much more than just fibers and other sustainable products. They help mitigate climate change, maintain water quality and stabilize soil, provide food and income to millions of people and are home to an extraordinary amount of biodiversity. But we need to manage them sustainably.

Building trust in forest products creates additional demand and ultimately increases the value of forests. Creating additional value is one of the best ways to keep forests standing, as it prevents them from being cleared for alternative, unsustainable land uses. Maintaining forests and creating sustainable forest value chains is critical for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Have a look in your wardrobe – perhaps you too are wearing forest solutions!



Credits to:

- Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) (<https://www.pefc.org/>)
- Maria Lafuentes (<https://www.marialafuente.es/>)