Designing Tomorrow: A Fresh Look at Fashion Education's Evolution

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Abstract: In the midst of a swiftly changing world, the fields of fashion and design education are undergoing significant transformations, prompting a critical reassessment of teaching methodologies. This in-depth review methodically synthesizes and elaborates upon findings from nine seminal research articles, providing a broad and detailed perspective of the current state and future trajectory of fashion and design pedagogy. The review commences by examining the evolution of educational methodologies within the fashion and design spheres. It delves into how these disciplines have progressively embraced more holistic and interdisciplinary approaches, reflecting the increasingly multifaceted nature of the industry. This segment highlights the necessity for educators to incorporate diverse elements such as business acumen, technological literacy, and an understanding of social sciences into the curriculum, thereby equipping students with a more comprehensive skill set. Following this, the review focuses on the crucial role of technology in reshaping fashion and design education. It explores the integration of digital tools and innovative teaching methods that have transformed traditional learning environments. This section showcases how technology not only serves as a creative medium but also as a critical tool for fostering deeper understanding and engagement in students. Furthermore, the review delves into the dynamic roles that students and instructors play in this evolving educational landscape. It underscores the shift towards a more student-centered approach, where experiential learning and active participation are key. The evolving roles of instructors are also examined, highlighting how they are adapting to serve not just as knowledge providers, but as facilitators of a more collaborative and interactive learning experience. In conclusion, this comprehensive review offers a panoramic yet detailed view of the current state of fashion and design education. It emphasizes the importance of embracing change, advocating for the integration of interdisciplinary studies, technological advancements, and a renewed focus on the active roles of both students and instructors. As the industry continues to evolve, this review serves as a critical resource for educators and stakeholders in fashion and design education, guiding them in adapting and enriching their pedagogical practices.

Keywords: Fashion, Education, Evolution

1. Introduction

In this current age, characterized by rapid technological progress, the expanding reach of globalization, and the ever-evolving demands of various industries, the realm of fashion and design education finds itself at a crossroads, facing challenges of a magnitude never seen before. This review article takes a deep dive into the multifaceted nature of these changes. It meticulously dissects and critically examines pivotal research contributions in the field. This thorough analysis aims not only to shed light on the prevailing practices in fashion and design education but also to offer a detailed, nuanced perspective on the potential future trajectories of this dynamic field. By exploring these key areas, the article endeavors to equip educators, students, and industry professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape and emerging trends, thereby enabling them to navigate and adapt to these ongoing transformations effectively.

Section 1: Holistic and Interdisciplinary Approaches

A. Faerm's Perspective on Best Practices
"Building Best Practices for Fashion Design Pedagogy" by Steven Faerm (A) and "Towards a Future Pedagogy: The Evolution of Fashion Design Education" (H) offer in-depth analyses of the changing paradigms in fashion design education. Faerm's work illuminates the need for an interdisciplinary approach, integrating business, technology, and social sciences, to prepare students for a multifaceted industry. He calls for a global perspective in curriculum design, emphasizing the significance of balancing practical skills with theoretical knowledge.

B. Turturicić's Modern Teaching Methods
"Modern Teaching Methods in Creative Workshop: Fashion Design Courses" by Ondina - OanaTurturicić (B) investigates contemporary teaching methods, focusing on creativity and digital technology. Turturicić introduces concepts like 'wearing intentions' and 'expressions', highlighting the importance of psychological and ergonomic factors in the learning process.

Section 2: Technological Integration and Empirical Approaches

C. Interaction Design in Fashion Education
"Interaction Design Methods in Fashion Design Teaching" (C) presents an innovative interdisciplinary methodology, integrating interaction design into fashion education. This approach bridges theoretical and practical aspects, supported by empirical research through test workshops.

I. Paul Loh's Approach to Design Education
"Making as Pedagogy: Engaging Technology in Design Teaching" by Paul Loh (I) emphasizes the centrality of technology in design education. Loh advocates for experiential learning and a student-centered approach, utilizing technology as a tool for both creation and critical thinking.

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Section 3: Innovative Educational Methods and Student Learning

D. Reminiscence Methodology
"Reminiscence as a Tool for Pedagogy in Fashion Design and Merchandising Curriculum" by Yancura, Reilly, and Bahng (D) introduces the novel use of reminiscence methodology in fashion education. This approach enhances understanding of fashion's sociohistorical contexts and integrates multimedia, catering to modern learning styles.

E. Studio Pedagogy by Purasmaa
Marika Purasmaa's "Studio Pedagogy as a Method in Textile and Fashion Design Education" (E) explores the role of creativity and materiality in studio pedagogy. It provides empirical insights into the unique characteristics of studio-based learning and its practical implications.

Section 4: Sustainability and Future Research Directions

F. Sustainable Fashion Literature Review
"Sustainable Fashion: Current and Future Research Directions" by Mukendi et al. (F) conducts a thorough literature review, identifying key approaches in sustainable fashion. It offers insights into managerial practices, emphasizing the need for consumer perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches.

Section 5: The Evolving Roles of Students and Instructors

G. Schmidt and Zarestky's Analysis
"The State of Fashion Design Pedagogy: The Roles of Students and Instructors" by Schmidt and Zarestky (G) examines the multifaceted roles of students in fashion education. It highlights the need for interdisciplinary learning and collaboration, aligning teaching methods with industry changes.

2. Conclusion

The reviewed articles collectively underscore the need for fashion and design education to embrace interdisciplinary approaches, integrate technology, and focus on experiential and student-centered learning. The evolution of pedagogy in this field is characterized by an increasing emphasis on global perspectives, sustainability, and the balance between theoretical knowledge and practical skills. As the industry continues to evolve, educators must adapt their methods to prepare students for the complexities of modern design challenges.

References