ABSTRACT:
The extent to which technological advances have influenced the development of textiles and their use in design is not something that is well understood by professional designers, manufacturers, academia and the general public. This book explains the main technologies and how they are used. International in scope, over two hundred illustrations include developments such as monofilaments, three dimensional knitting, membrane architecture and biomimetics. A full Glossary, Biographies, Bibliography, Directory of Suppliers and Index make this a book that is extensively used both on design courses and studios. My contribution to the book has two aims. One is to inform students, designers, manufacturers and the general public of the possibilities for textiles to be both technologically advanced and aesthetically strong. Two, to show how these advances can be used to re-examine the nature of textiles and the possibilities they are providing in areas as diverse as fashion, transport, sportswear, architecture, product, art, medical, sustainable and environmental design. This work emerged from my continuing exploration on the impact of new technologies including biotechnology, composites, extrusion and pultrusion on textiles. This exploration is brought more palatably to the architecture, fashion and design professions through the evaluation of the technological combined with aesthetic textiles rather than a purely technological discussion. Understanding the potential for advanced textiles requires constant interpretive engagement across industry groups. It is only by the support of major publishers with international distribution that broad ranging groups will become knowledgeable of developments and their potential.

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