Collaborative dynamics between traditional artisans and fashion designers in Lima, Peru

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Abstract
This exploratory study seeks to explore the phases that usually exist in design processes that have artisans as collaborators and in which phases artisans actively participate. A qualitative approach was used to understand from the perspective of the designers, how collaboration processes between them and artisans work. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with representatives of socially driven or environmentally friendly textile enterprises. This study suggests that artisans are frequently requested to work as producers subservient to the designer’s vision, and that artisans’ participation usually happens during the production phase. This study provides novel information about the roles that designers assign to artisans and the roles they assign to themselves when working together with artisans, and brings together information about the collaboration process itself. The study also includes recommendations for future research related to how artisans perceive collaborative processes and which are the benefits of these collaborations from their perspective. It is important to mention that this study is limited to explore the perspective of designers from Lima, Perú, but a clearer picture of the collaboration process through analysis of perspectives of artisans themselves.

Keywords: Latin America, collaboration, fashion, designers, artisans

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