

Digital coding in textile design practice and the stimulation of emotional experience

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Abstract

This paper examines the role of digital coding in textile practice. It argues that a participatory co-design process can stimulate an emotional personal-fabric relationship, which this paper refers to as the emotional experience. Current debates on emotional experience are examined and discussed, highlighting differences in the terminology used and points of agreement, notably that emotional experience is elicited through the emotional bond created between an object and a person. The benefits of introducing digital coding in textile practice, creating a more hybrid design methodology, are also examined. Three textiles projects incorporating digital coding are analysed, exploring the benefits and limitations of digital coding to arouse emotional experience. Finally, this paper invites the reader to reflect on the issues encountered by a particular woven textile project, Woven Memories (2016), when trying to introduce it to industry and manufacturing production.

Keywords: Emotional experience; woven textile; digital coding; co-designing

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