

Clothing + Embedded Technology: Past Challenges, Future Opportunities

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Chapter Abstract:

With a focus on the positive attributes that good design can bring an overview of developments in the area of smart clothing and wearable technology is given, as well as current prototypes that pave the way for future production. Highlights of the past three decades are given that demonstrate innovation in materials and technologies to ensure desirable aesthetics and functions, both visual and tactile, for increased performance capabilities. Past challenges are addressed where clothing embedded with technology has perhaps not reached its full potential and possible considerations are posed where interactive, human-centred design is core. In the creation of body-related items benefits are given of collaborations between disciplines together with a fusion of physical and digital approaches and realisations. Looking ahead to a positive future, the growth of this area follows a trajectory of inclusive and sustainable design across the worlds of sport and fashion.