

Can we make our ideas wearable? A case study for construction process of 3D printed dress

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The use of 3D printing is now gaining momentum in the fashion industry and creates new opportunities for designers to engage in product development practices. Moreover, from the customer perspective, 3D printed fashion offers a greater emotional interaction than possible with off-the-shelf products. However, the technology is still in its early phases of development, and the dominant business models have yet to emerge. In this study, we demonstrate the process of 3D printing a wearable dress – software design, materials, printing process and 3D visualisation techniques. The four-level model will provide a matrix for creating explicit 3D printing design guidelines. In doing so, this study articulates the skills and tools needed for fashion designers and discusses recommendations for future practice. Materialise produced the final 3D dress product - in one cycle, fully assembled and ready to wear.