



ALIDA MERLIN XAVIER  
DESIGN COMPETITION | 2023

*How leather industry's off-cuts can be utilized  
to avoid landfill*

## RE-PURPOSING LEATHER OFF-CUTS

This is a compilation of my Masters practice based dissertation's research from the prototyping stage to the final collection of 3 bags that were part of the dissertation capsule collection.

Pages 02-24 (Initial research and prototypes)

Pages 25-32 (Final prototype samples produced to support the written dissertation)



Taking inspiration from nature and not representing a preconceived silhouette, the collection represents a reinterpretation of basic accessory design within itself. The bags may appear simple, but they originate from a more complex starting point. Due to the flexibility of the material used in this collection, the silhouette of the bag can be shaped around any mold depending on how the process is carried out.



CONCEPT BOARD



AMX DESIGN COLLECTION - PROTOTYPE COLOURS



bas original...  
form not...  
basic silh...  
look basi...  
more cor...  
of the ba...  
way you...  
can lead...  
of silhoue...

ape the this  
nds be

Pantone: 4685 C

Pantone: 362 C

Pantone: 1925 C

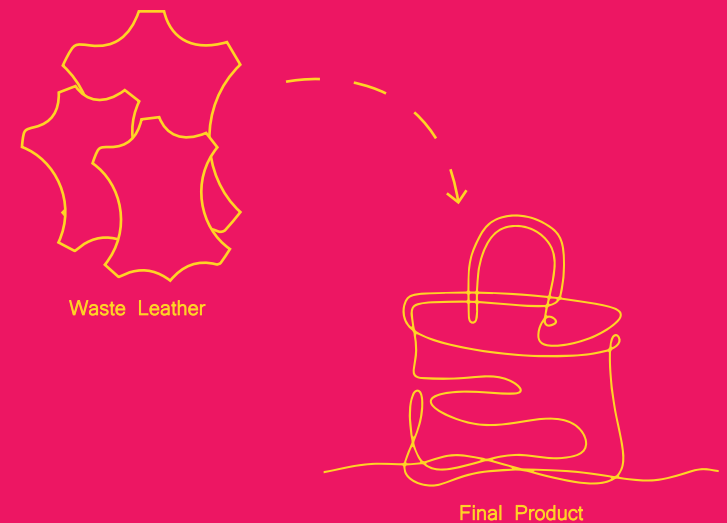
Pantone: 7404 C



This collection focuses on how waste leather from the Luxury Accessory Design Industry can be given a new purpose and turned into viable bags. As leather, is a very durable material and a completely natural byproduct, giving this material a chance to complete its full lifecycle before it can be discarded is the idea behind this collection.

Given the current scenario of waste generated by the Luxury Industry in 2022, making sure majority of leather offcuts and deadstock are given a new life and not sent to landfill is the aim of this collection. Using this Design strategy, a significant amount of waste can be reduced.

What might be waste to you, is opportunity to me :)



# DESIGN STRATEGY



NO

ALL



*We up-cycle CRAP, giving them a chance at becoming something before discarding them immediately due to defects or wrong cuts, whatever it might be, they all have a purpose in this collection.*

We have sourced offcuts generated from suitcase production from our partner



brand who contributed their waste from the bin to help us construct something viable.



LEATHER

LEATHER



These are some of the different leather weave explorations and macrame knots explored in this collection.

Categorised as follows:

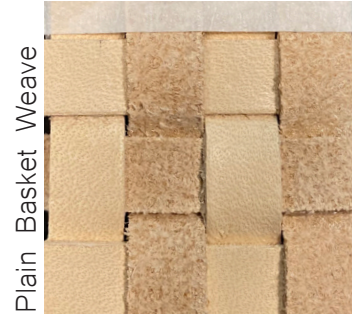
- Interlocking
- Handles
- Closure and
- Knots

WEAVES & KNOTS

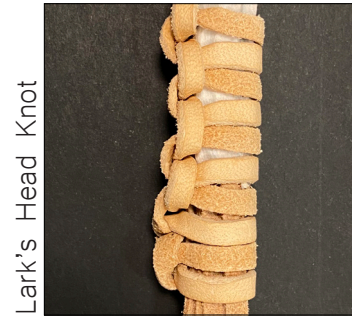
LEATHER

LEATHER

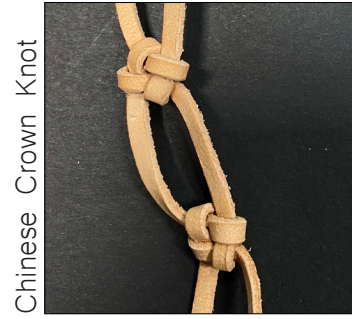
INTERLOCKING



HANDLES



KNOTS



CLOSURE

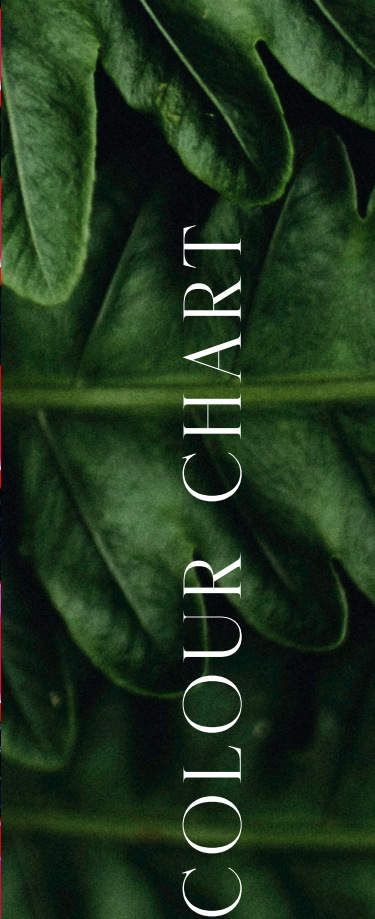
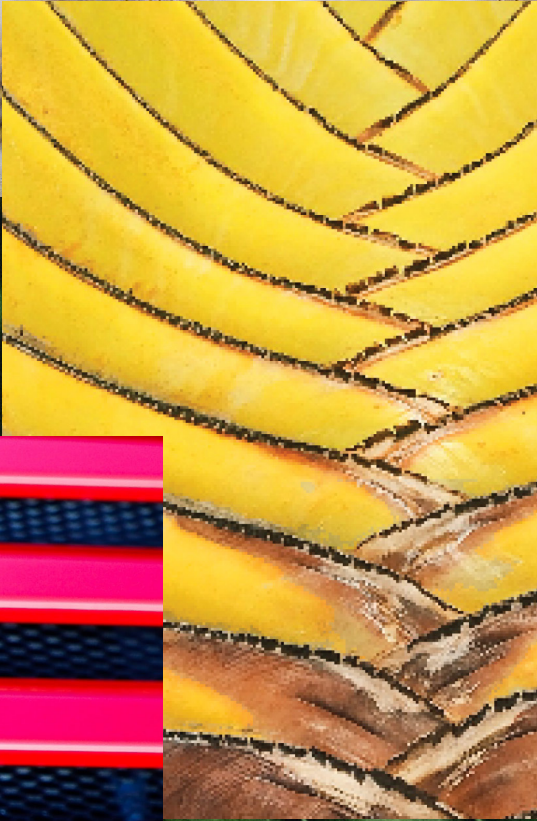


Interlaced within

WEAVES

KNOTS





COLOUR CHART



NATURAL

Pantone: 4685 C



PINEAPPLE

Pantone: 7404 C



FERN

Pantone: 362 C



HOT PINK

Pantone: 1925 C

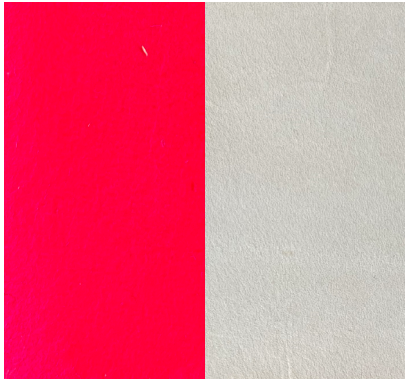




# MATERIAL CHART



## AMX DESIGN COLLECTION - MATERIALS USED



Vegetable Tan Leather Good Side  
 Colour: Natural Unfinished | Pink  
 Finished  
 Pantone: 4685 C | 1925 C  
 Split Thickness: 2mm  
 Offcut Sourced Factory:  
 Globe-trotter, Hoddesdon

Vegetable Tan Leather Split Side  
 Colour: Natural Unfinished | Pink  
 Finished  
 Pantone: 4685 C | 1925  
 Split Thickness: 2mm  
 Offcut Sourced Factory: Globe-  
 trotter, Hoddesdon

Vegetable Tan Leather Cord  
 Colour: Natural Unfinished  
 Pantone: 4685 C  
 Thickness: 1.5mm  
 Sourced Factory: Globe-trotter,  
 Hoddesdon

Cotton Canvas  
 Colour: Bright Pink  
 Pantone: 211 C  
 Composition: 100% Cotton  
 Weight: 260gm  
 Sourced Factory: Deadstock,  
 Amothreads UK

Firm Linen  
 Colour: Mustard  
 Pantone: 7413 C  
 Composition: 100% Linen  
 Weight: 190gm  
 Sourced Factory: Deadstock,  
 Amothreads UK

## MATERIAL CARE INSTRUCTIONS

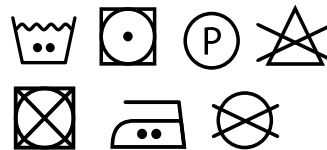
100% Veg Tan Leather  
 Clean with a microfibre, do not  
 wet the leather. Avoid excessive  
 sunlight.



100% Cotton Canvas  
 Wash at 40° C with similar  
 colours, light iron recommended.



100% Linen  
 Cold machine wash, Mild  
 detergent, do not bleach, do not  
 tumble dry, line dry in shade,  
 warm iron, do not dry clean.







SAMPLE 01



AMX DESIGN COLLECTION #01

- HANDHELD BAGS



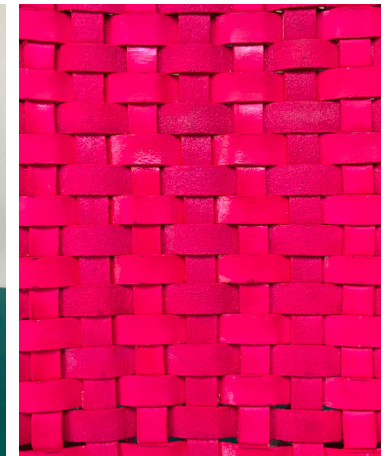
SQUARE LEATHER BASKET BAG



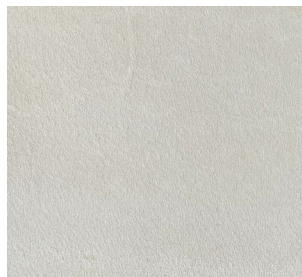
Front



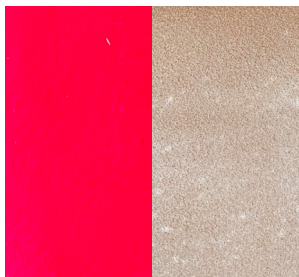
3/4 View



Bottom



Natural Unfinished Split Veg Tan



Finished Good side & Split back VegTan- Pink



Lining - Bright Pink 100% Cotton Canvas



Base: Plain basket Weave



Body: Plain Basket weave and Snake Knot



Handle: Lark's Head knot



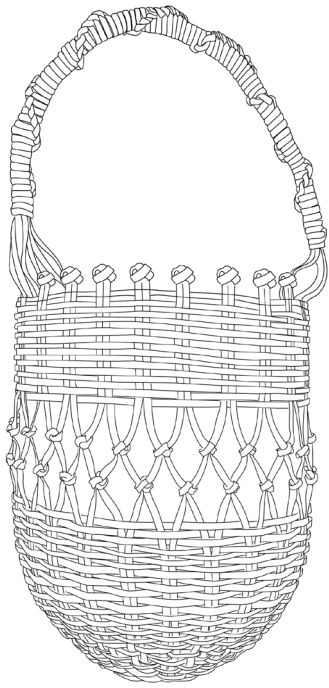


PROTOTYPE 01



AMX DESIGN COLLECTION PROTO#01

- HANDHELD BAGS



LEATHER BASKET BAG



Front



3/4 View



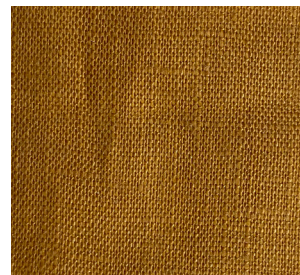
Bottom



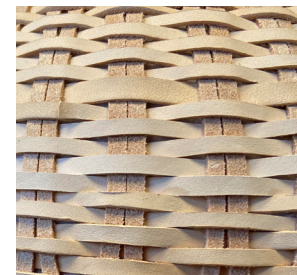
Natural Unfinished Split Veg Tan



Natural Unfinished Split back Veg Tan



Lining - Mustard, 100% Linen



Base: Willow Basket Weave



Body: Willow Basket weave and Snake Knot



Handle: Half spiral knot



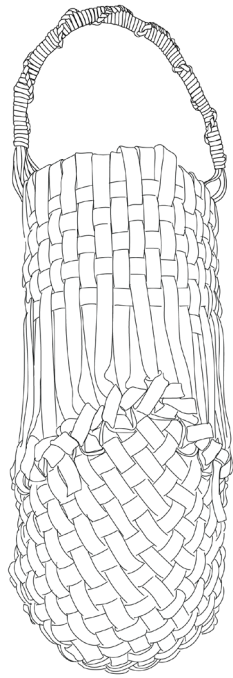


PROTOTYPE 02



AMX DESIGN COLLECTION PROTO#02

- HANDHELD BAGS



Front



3/4 View



Bottom

SHORT HANDLE LEATHER BASKET BAG



Natural Unfinished Split  
Veg Tan



Natural Unfinished Split  
back Veg Tan



Base: Plain basket  
Weave



Body: Plain Basket weave  
and Overhand Knot



Handle: Half spiral knot  
and Overhand Knot





PROTOTYPE 03



AMX DESIGN COLLECTION PROTO#03

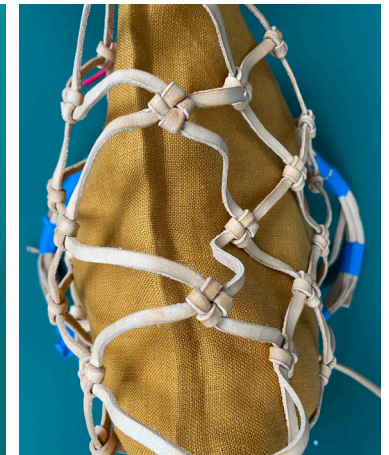
- HANDHELD BAGS



Front



3/4 View

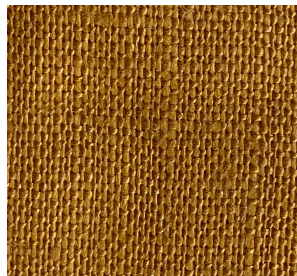


Bottom

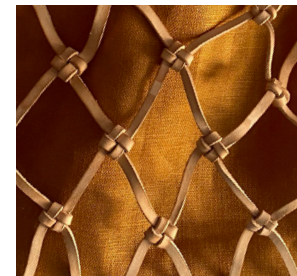
LEATHER MACRAME BAG



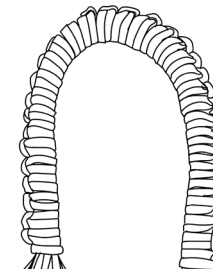
Natural Unfinished Split  
Veg Tan



Lining - Mustard, 100%  
Linen



Body: Chinese Crown  
Knot



Handle: Lark's Head knot



AMX DESIGN COLLECTION PROTOTYPE #01 - #03 & FINAL PRODUCTION SAMPLE  
- RANGE PLAN

INITIAL PROTOTYPES  
JULY-AUGUST 2022  
Natural Veg Tanned  
woven exterior with  
fabric lining



FINAL SAMPLE  
AUGUST 2022  
Hand-painted woven  
exterior with fabric lining

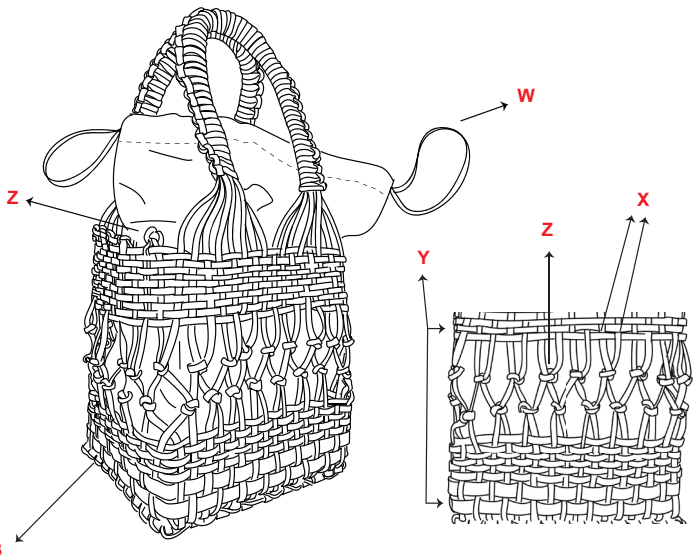
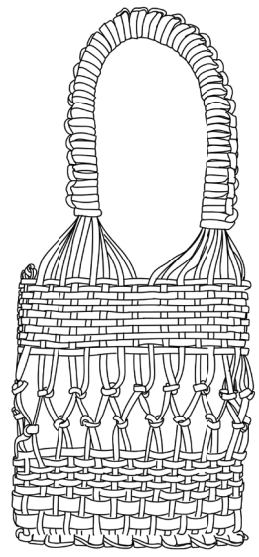
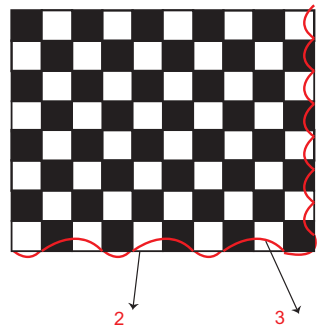
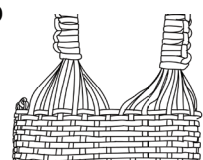
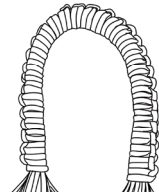






SPEC SHEET



BAG SPEC SHEET					
Date Sent	XXX	Product Name	HANDHELD BAG	Thread Lining	
Deadline	ABC	Product Number	SS24AX001	Finish 1	Polyester Pink 30
Company	ALIDA XAVIER				
Season	SS24				
<p><b>A. 3/4 View</b></p> 		<p><b>B. Back View</b></p> 		<p><b>C. Bottom View</b></p> 	
				<p><b>C. Inside</b></p> <p>T- Base Drawstring bag, 15cm Base, 3mm Gap Drawstring loop. 19 cm Height.</p>	
	Material	Description	Notes		
<b>Front &amp; Sides</b>	Vegetable Tan Leather Unfinished	5mmx 200mm	<p><b>A</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plain Weave Base</li> <li>Lark's Head knot.</li> </ol> <p><b>A &amp; B - WEAVE INFO</b></p> <p><b>X Warp -</b> Natural unfinished Veg Tan 27 strips 5mm width, Pink split back 27 Strips 5mm width</p> <p><b>Y Weft -</b> Natural Unfinished Veg Tan 17 strips 5mm width, Pink finished 2 strips 9mm width</p> <p><b>Z Snake Knot -</b> Two rows of snake knots</p>	<p><b>B</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front and back have 10 warp strips (5-5 split) and the two sides have 16 warp strips (8-8 split).</li> </ol> <p><b>C</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Weft Strips</li> <li>16 Warp strip</li> </ol> <p><b>1 x 2 - Plain Weave</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twining around the plain weave to secure and shape the edges</li> </ol> <p><b>W</b></p> <p>Drawstring Finished Pink 5mm strip 80mm length x2 sealed with a knot at the end.</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>  <p>Gather the Front and back and 8-8 split - to form the Lark Head's knot for the Bag handle.</p> <p>Z - 10 Snake knots on the left and right side of the Bag which is then fine edged and interlaced within to secure the seam.</p>
	Vegetable Tan Leather Split back finished	Angelus Acrylic paints Hot Pink, High Gloss finish 5mmx 200mm			
	Vegetable Tan Leather finished	Angelus Acrylic paints Hot Pink, High Gloss finish 9mmx 200mm			
<b>Base</b>	Vegetable Tan Leather	Good Side  Unfinished			<p><b>E</b></p> <p>Secure the collected strips with masking tape at 17.5 cm height and start the Lark's head knot around the secured shape and height.</p> 
	Veg Tan Leather thonging cord 1.5mm	Good Side  Unfinished			
<b>Handle</b>	Vegetable Tan Leather	Good Side  Unfinished			
<b>Lining</b>	Cotton Canvas	260gm			





# COSTING SHEET



# AMX DESIGN COLLECTION

## - LEATHER BASKETRY | FINAL PRODUCT | COSTING

### COST SHEET

Date: XXX

Description: ALIDA XAVIER | SS 24

Size range: SMALL HANDHELD BAGS

Color: NATURAL & PINK MIX

Style no.: SS24AX001


Season: SPRING/SUMMER 24

Sample size: N/A

Designer: ALIDA XAVIER

Material	Width / Style	Unit cost	Quantity	Cost
Veg Tan Leather 1	Natural Unfinished Split front 2mm	N/A	1	£0
Veg Tan Leather 2	Pink Finished   Split Back 2mm	N/A	1	£0
Lining	100% Cotton Canvas	£3.65	1	£3.65
Angelus neon acrylic leather Paint	Jamaican Joy 4oz / 118ml	£4.95	1	£4.95
Angelus High Gloss finisher	High Gloss Acrylic Finisher 4oz / 118ml	£9.99	1	£9.99
Veg Tan Leather twining	1.5 mm / 25mt	£3.00	1	£3.00
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£21.59</b>

Notions	Size / Style	Unit cost	Quantity	Cost
Thread	30 Polyester   Pink	£1.00	5	£5.00
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£5.00</b>

Sketch  	Labor	SMV	Labor rate	Cost
	Cutting	3 Hours	£10.00	£30.00
	Sewing	1 hour	£15.00	£15.00
				<b>Subtotal</b>
Packaging		Quantity	Unit cost	Cost
Hangtag		2	£1.99	£3.98
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£3.98</b>
Total cost of goods:		£75.57		
Hypothetical cost		£48.98		
Suggested retail price:		£450.00		





# PRACTICE BASED DISSERTATION

FROM R&D TO SAMPLING



## AMX DESIGN COLLECTION - R&D

Leather off-cuts were sourced from Globe Trotter, UK. Their weekly cutting and trimming waste generated during the production stage was put aside by the production head. Approximately 6kgs of cutting waste was collected over a day and half's Production.

Images below are of the waste generated during the cutting stage and of off-cuts in the bin (Waste that still has potential use).



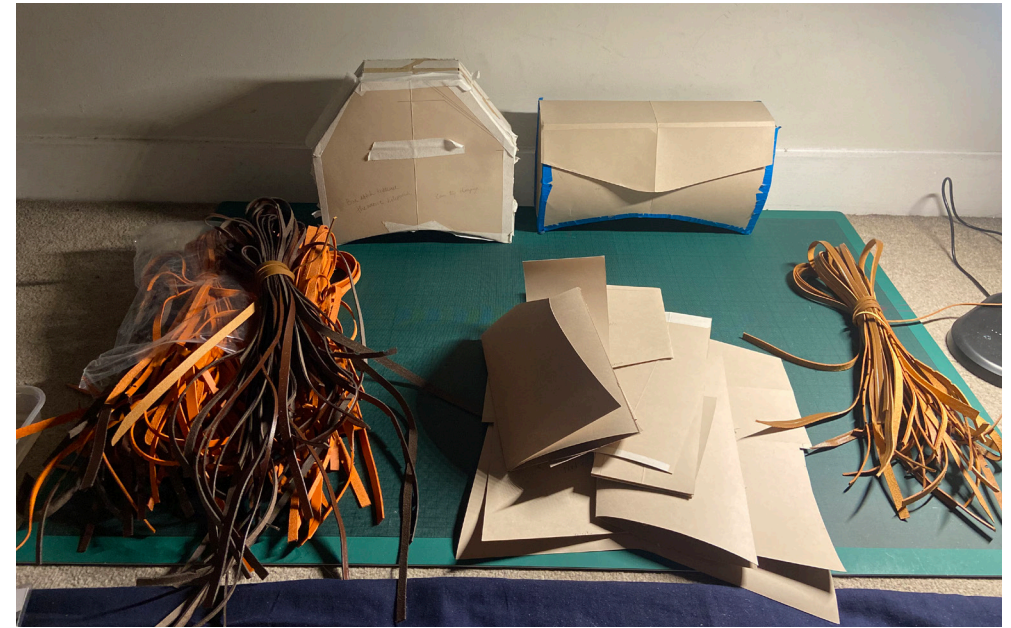
This waste was then cut into strips of 5mm and 10mm varying in length maintaining a standard split thickness of 2mm. 4/6kg was used to make the 3 bags including the Card holder (SLG).





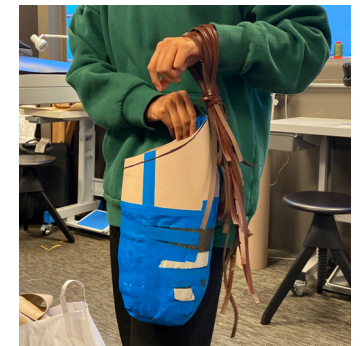
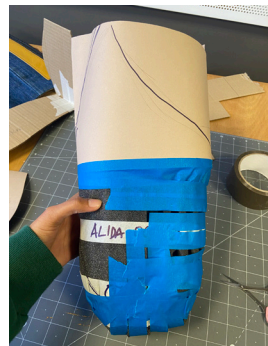
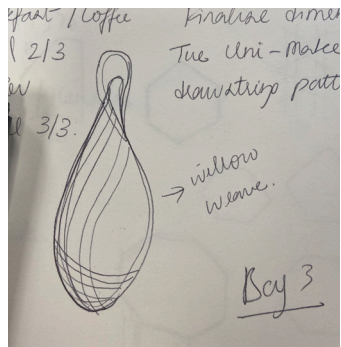
As these were leather fished out of the bin. The colours scheme produced was completely at random. Therefore the first stage was to analyze the strips sent over.

Categorized into colour, width and finish.



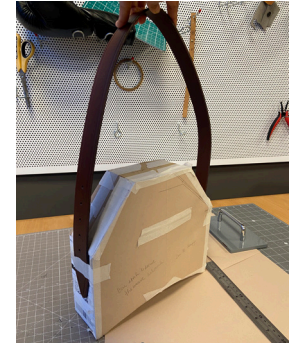
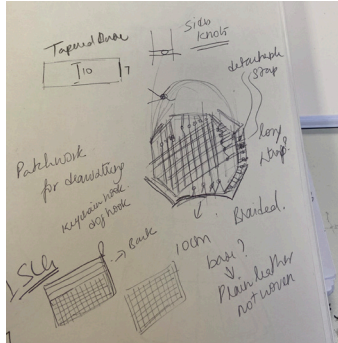
I knew for sure the shapes I would use within this collection was going to be completely organic derived from different shapes put together or a completely new form, I was inclined to explore. However, how each bag was going to come together was still unknown. Each step of the way was constant experimentation. Meanwhile, I had my silhouettes along with the leather lining patterns ready for each of them.

## BAG 01

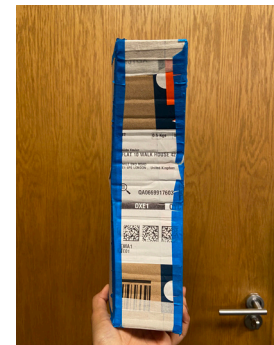
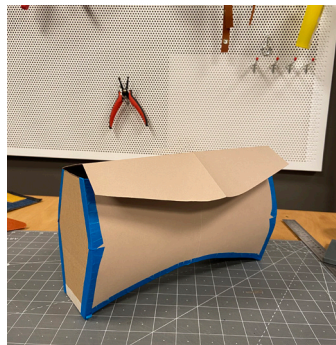
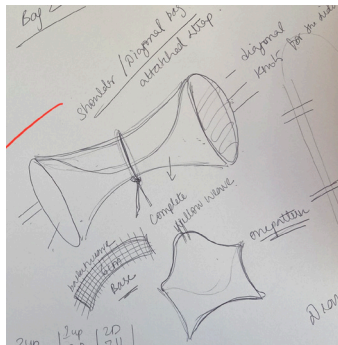




## BAG 02

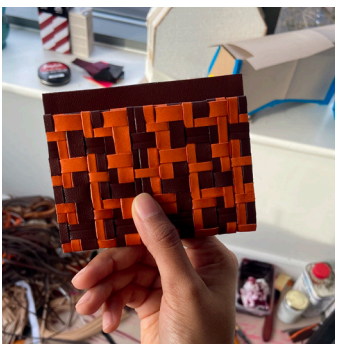
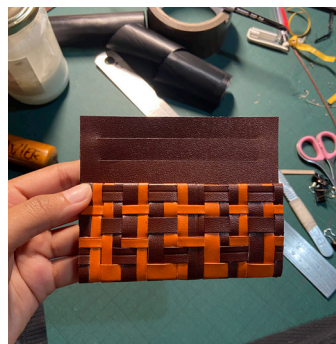
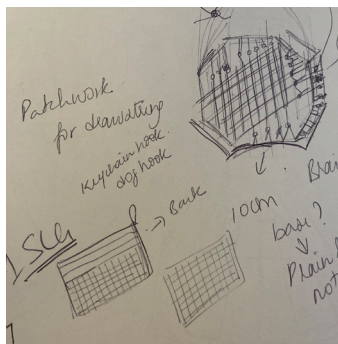


## BAG 03



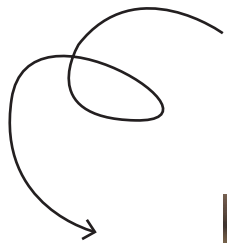
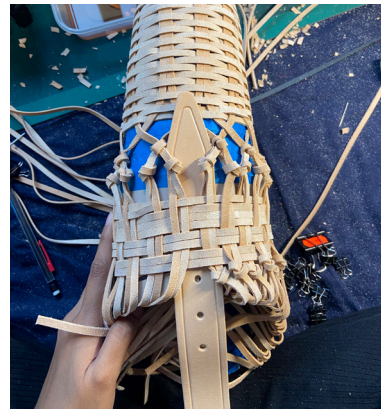
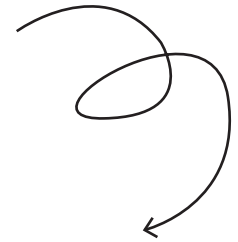
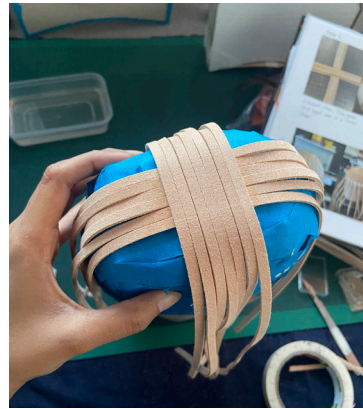
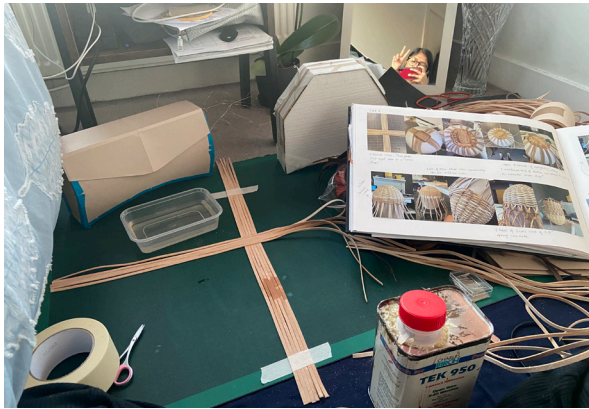
Slowly after this, the capsule collection came to life.

## SLG 01 FOR BAG 02



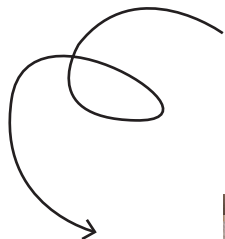
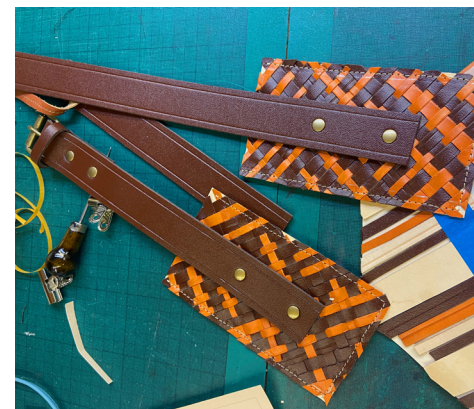
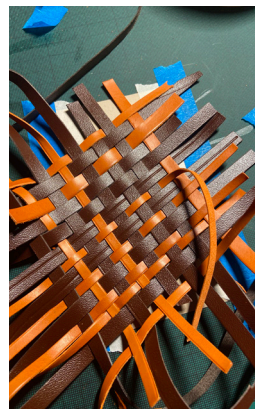


BAG 01



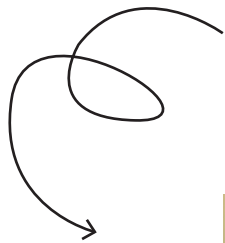
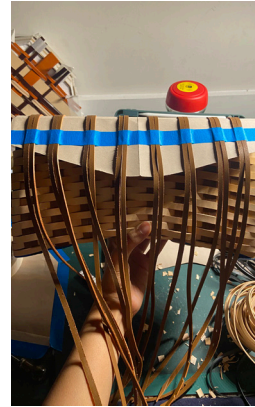


BAG 02





BAG 03





## CONCLUSION

With large volume of leather off-cuts being generated and as a growing industry we have a responsibility to keep in mind, how this excess product can be utilized further to respect the environment around mankind. Starting from the industry's tanning methods to the products end of life stage. With an increase in demand for more leather accessories, and every other leather alternative trying to achieve leather's durability and longevity. Instead, the industry should be focused on improving this material further. This research has helped understand the current efforts towards leather industry's stance on circularity. The secondary and primary research has illuminated on a few key findings that wasn't what the research was expecting to discover.

The research has found that consumer education plays a vital role in every decision surrounding leather. As everybody's first instinctive thought of what leather is that it comes from an animal and that animal is being killed for its skin. Which is not the current reality, at least not in a well established leather industry following all the norms. With leather alternatives playing to their strength of where it comes from, nobody seems to think twice before choosing it to be better than genuine leather. From the primary research conducted via a digital survey, the importance behind a little explanation of what off-cuts and trimmings are, has gone beyond their basic understanding and has helped many appreciate the ideology behind the research and opened up newer insights regarding the leather industry.

This project was solely produced in order to find a potential solution or at least a method of utilizing the leather off-cuts generated, alongside to bring a capsule collection to life that can be used for many years to come and can be easily mended if ever needed. These are purely handcrafted using a mixture of weaving and knotting techniques that were made achievable from a lot of references and secondary research. In recent spring summer collections a vast variety of such woven basketry driven bags are commercially seen and therefore I see a good potential in using off-cuts as they are only cutting waste and not leather of poor quality. Defects and other growth marks that are generally avoided during the cutting stage cannot be seen in these woven bags either .

THANK YOU