

# FOOTWEAR DESIGN



[dmu.ac.uk/footwear](http://dmu.ac.uk/footwear)





# Welcome to De Montfort University

## Footwear Design

De Montfort University Leicester (DMU) offers the only single honours Footwear Design degree in the UK – delivering a distinctive blend of taught components to best provide the next generation of shoemakers and designers with the skills they need. The course has impressive industry links and influential relationships within the International fashion sector. The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers and The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers both provide vital support to the course through their generous monetary funding. Student experiences they helped fund last year included a trip to see shoe factories in Spain and a trip to the LINEAPELLE trade show in Milan.

Our academic and technical teams work hard to provide our students with a rich and rewarding experience. We deliver insight to the traditional craft of shoemaking, combined with the development of 3D design technologies. Our students create sketch and CAD designs, to sit alongside the technical making skills of their 3D prototypes, producing a diverse range of footwear categories including women's fashion, performance sports and men's bespoke orthopaedic shoes. We are the only University footwear design course where students can specialise in sports footwear. Students are able to work on live projects with global brands including New Balance and have staff with extensive experience from adidas and Reebok.

We have excellent industry links and a credible reputation, which ensures our students have many opportunities to work on live industry projects. This provides them with invaluable experiences to gain relevant industry skills and networking opportunities with major international companies. Our students have recently completed live projects with TOMS, Lacoste, New Balance, Sophia Webster, Vibram, Hi-Tec, Nike, A Cold Wall and Joseph Cheaney & Sons. As a result of the live projects, many work experience and internship opportunities are created. We are so proud of our graduates, and many go on to work for companies such as Nike, Lacoste, Adidas, Clarks, Paul Smith, Sophia Webster, Alexander McQueen, Gucci, Puma and Givenchy. A great example is Dimitri Gabellier, a student who graduated in 2019, won the YKK Accessories competition at graduate fashion week then went on to an internship with Givenchy that resulted in a permanent design position.

In addition to academic studies, we offer our students project-related study trips combined with international experience. Students have visited trade fairs such as Lineapelle in Milan, toured production facilities in Spain, and taken part in research trips to Paris and London. Many of our students also participate in University wide trips, with students visiting New York, Hong Kong, Berlin, Copenhagen and Thailand.

With our support, students are able to realise their full potential. We're proud of our niche approach to this subject, which we believe prepares our students for careers in the industry. We encourage students to push boundaries and exceed expectations, by nurturing their talent and creativity, in order to become well-prepared for the demands of the footwear industry.

Our students have made us proud by quickly adapting and responding to the changes we faced during the Covid-19 pandemic. Although it was not the end to the year that we had planned, our students all continued to produce their work to an exceptionally high standard. Instead of a disadvantage, it was a challenge with students using their own resources to complete photoshoots and presentations remotely under the restrictions that were followed.

On behalf of our graduating students from Footwear Design BA (Hons), I am delighted to showcase the variety of work they have produced, which demonstrates their skills, creativity and innovation.

Nanette Westberg-Brown  
Course Leader Footwear Design

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# FOOTWEAR DESIGN NEWS

Dimitri Gabelier who graduated from the footwear design BA in 2019 was last years winner of the prestigious YKK accessory & footwear design award at Graduate fashion week. Dimitri is now working as a footwear designer at Givenchy in Paris.



Keri Thornton

Students work was on show at the LCB Depot exhibition in Leicestershire as part of a wider exhibition focusing on sustainability in the fashion industry. Work shown was by Dickson AgyeKum, Dimitri Gabelier, Alexander Cho and Charlie Tegerdine.



Dimitri Gabelier

Another winner at Graduate fashion week was Keri Thornton, who won the Clarks Footwear Design award. Keri is now working as a footwear designer at Jimmy Choo in London.

Graduates from 2019 have gone on to start their career's working as interns or in design positions at companies including Puma, Sophia Webster, Superdry, Moda In Pelle and Alexander McQueen.



Dickson AgyeKum

A selection of De Montfort footwear students attended a summer school, spending two weeks in Tuscany at the Modartech University in Pontedera near Florence.

The students were trained in new footwear pattern cutting techniques, new Photoshop techniques and visited some of the best shoe factories and leather tanneries in the world. The trip was paid for by funding given to us by the Worshipful company of Cordwainers, a livery company in London started by leather workers that provides valuable support for footwear students.



Modartech summer school



LINEAPELLE

Second year students presented their work to Vibram and HiTec teams at LINEAPELLE tradeshow in Milan. The students had been working on a live project in collaboration with HiTec & Vibram and presented their final concepts to designers and management for the brands in Italy. Some of the students will get the chance to intern at Vibram and develop their ideas further.

Students from the second and third year visited Spain at the start of the Autumn term. The students visited the SATRA footwear research facility as well as shoe factories in Spain. The trip was partially funded by the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers livery.



Spain trip

INSPIRATION:

Inspired by the Supermarine Spitfire used in WW2. The design features military buckles, RAF harness style straps and RAF colour pop on the sole. The design also has a multi-purpose with a removable protective cover.

ACHEIVEMENTS:

- Size? GFW Footwear award Finalist

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INSPIRATION:  
The shoe is inspired by Tripitaka Koreana.  
A collection of buddhist scripture in Hanja script.

ACHIEVEMENTS:  
- MODA competition finalist  
- Modartech footwear course Italy  
- GFW/ Size? footwear award finalist

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INSPIRATION:

The Eden Project in Cornwall inspired this project. Values of sustainability and minimising waste were incorporated into the designs. This shoe was influenced by the Eden project biomes using sustainable bamboo for the heel.

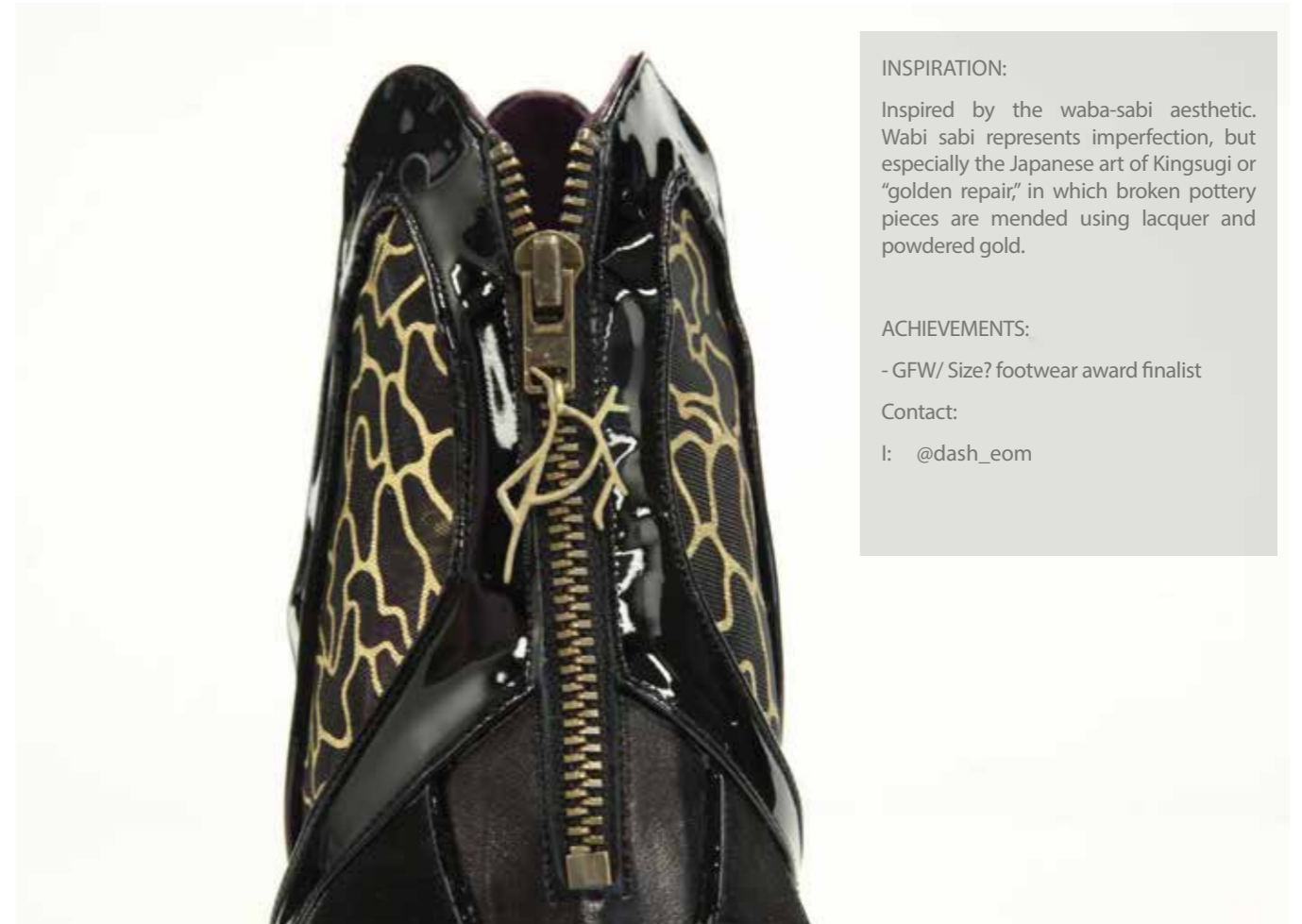
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Cordwainers shoe





INSPIRATION:

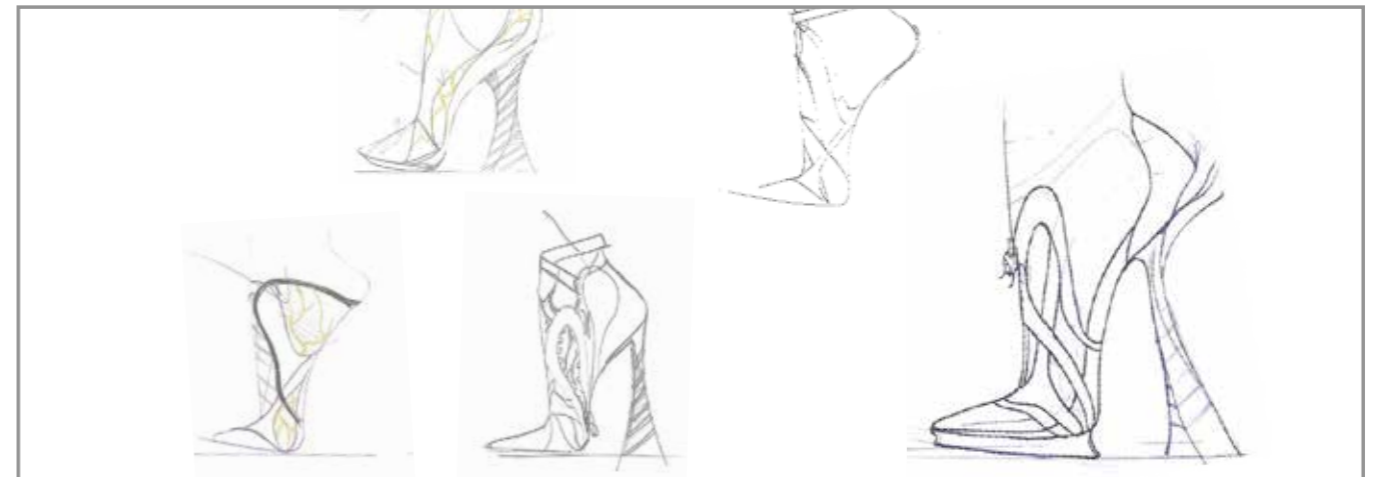
Inspired by the wabi-sabi aesthetic. Wabi sabi represents imperfection, but especially the Japanese art of Kintsugi or "golden repair," in which broken pottery pieces are mended using lacquer and powdered gold.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- GFW/ Size? footwear award finalist

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INSPIRATION:

The focus of this project was around sustainability and environmental impact of the footwear industry. A split toe tabby inspired boot which features an upper made from recycled denim and repurposed veg tanned leather.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- GFW/ Size? Footwear award finalist
- Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers livery - Scarr-Hall Memorial Award recipient

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INSPIRATION:

Inspiration was taken from the idea of 'contortion.' Main features include the prominent curve present in the vamp and heel. Materials include calf leather upper and binding with plush suede lining. Branded brass label inserted on the rear of the sock compliments the leather.

COMPETITIONS:

- Finalist in MODA competition
- 2ND PLACE - Worshipful company of Cordwainers livery - student awards
- GFW size? footwear award finalist

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Modartech Footwear Course

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- TOMS - Los Angeles

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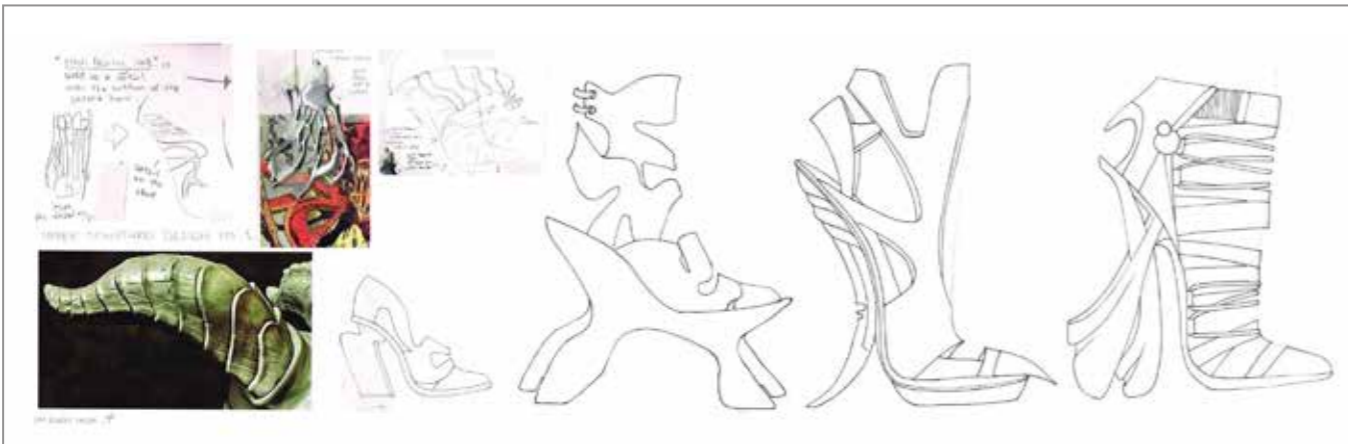


INSPIRATION:

Pulp horror, a fun and colorful take on the traditional horror. An exploration of this theme for its intriguing contrast between the dark subject and the vivid, bright colors.

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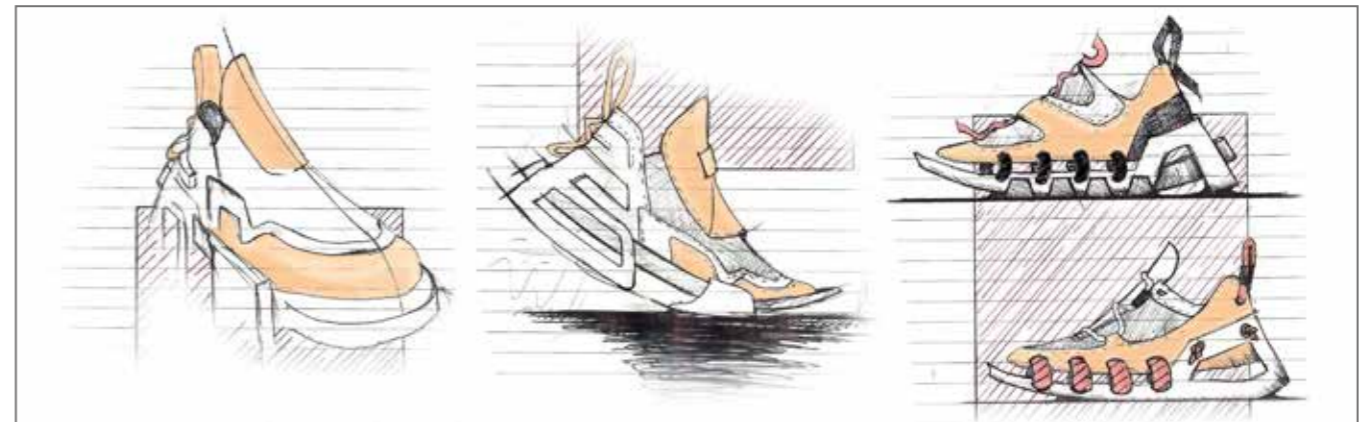
INSPIRATION:

Taking the concept of a Kimono and its attention to detail in how the garment is treated, cut and folded, including the minimalistic aesthetic.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Worshipful Company of Cordwainers livery - student awards finalist
- MODA competition finalist
- Footwear course @ Modartech
- YKK accessories award finalist

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INSPIRATION:

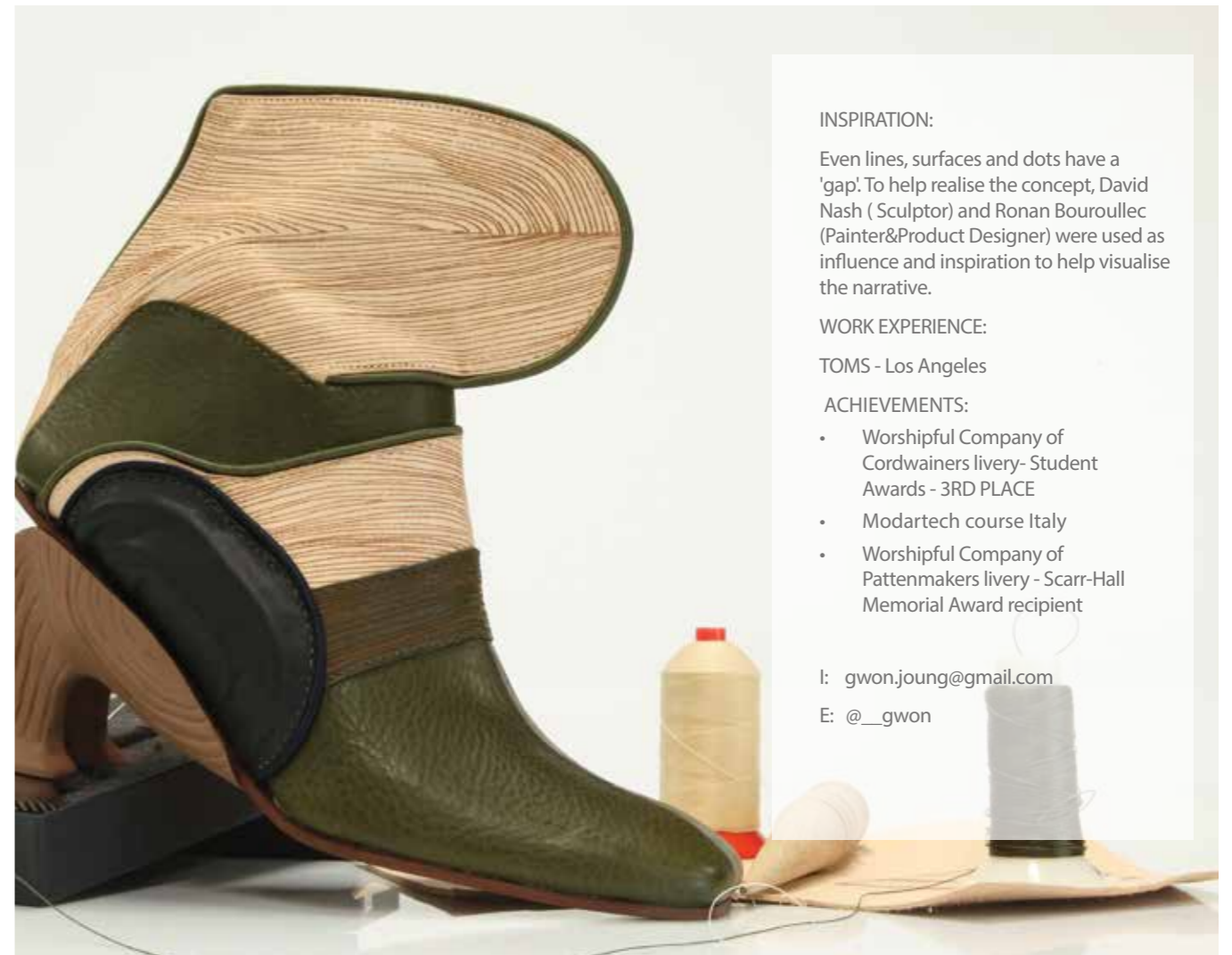
Inspired by Japanese warriors - Samurai.  
Zero waste pattern ankle boot.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Worshipful Company of Cordwainers livery - student awards finalist.
- MODA competition finalist
- Modartech footwear course in Italy.

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**INSPIRATION:**

Even lines, surfaces and dots have a 'gap'. To help realise the concept, David Nash (Sculptor) and Ronan Bouroullec (Painter&Product Designer) were used as influence and inspiration to help visualise the narrative.

**WORK EXPERIENCE:**

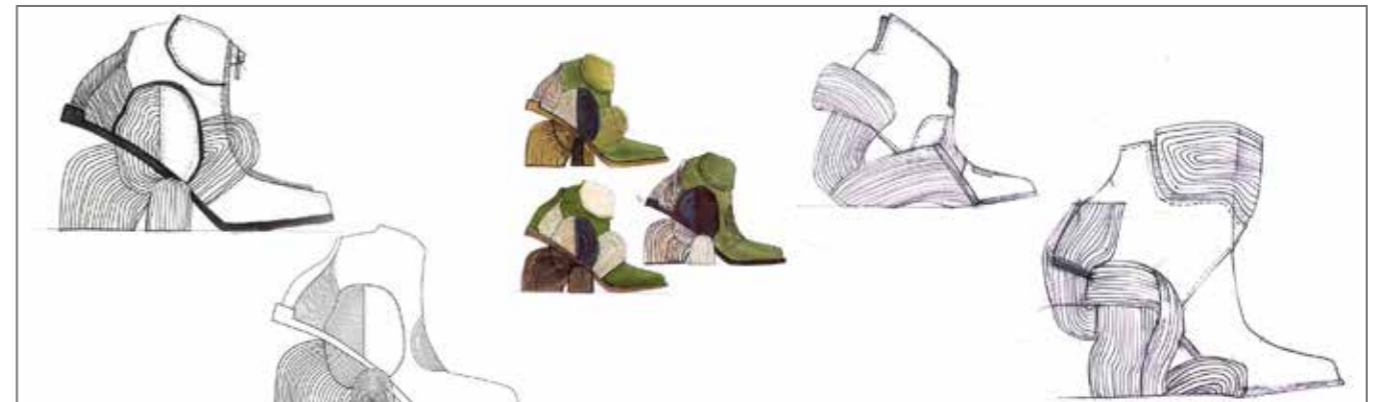
TOMS - Los Angeles

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Worshipful Company of Cordwainers livery- Student Awards - 3RD PLACE
- Modartech course Italy
- Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers livery - Scarr-Hall Memorial Award recipient

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INSPIRATION:

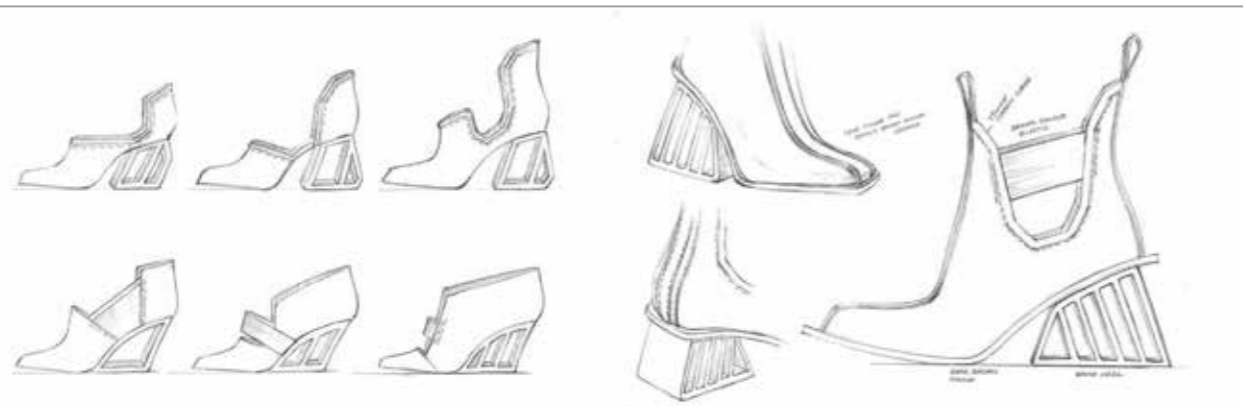
This shoe was inspired by 'Giwa',  
Traditional Korean roof construction.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Worshipful Company of Cordwainers  
livery - Student awards finalist
- Moda competition finalist

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INSPIRATION:

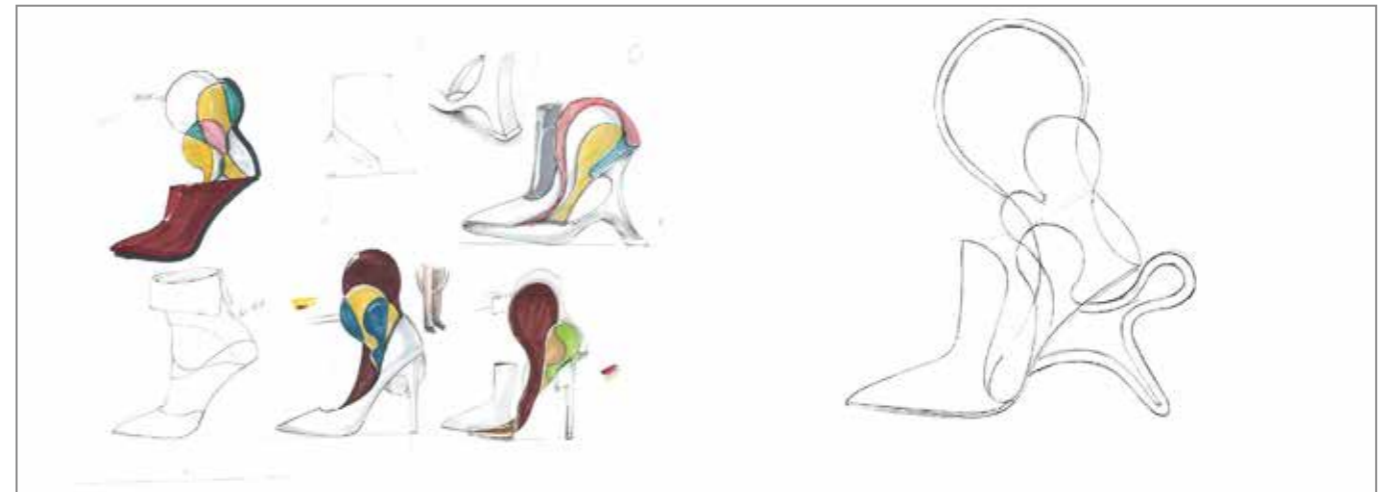
These shoes are inspired by A-ri-rang, a genre of traditional Korean folk song.

It is a design that expresses music using the curve that is made when the notes in the sheet music are connected by a line.

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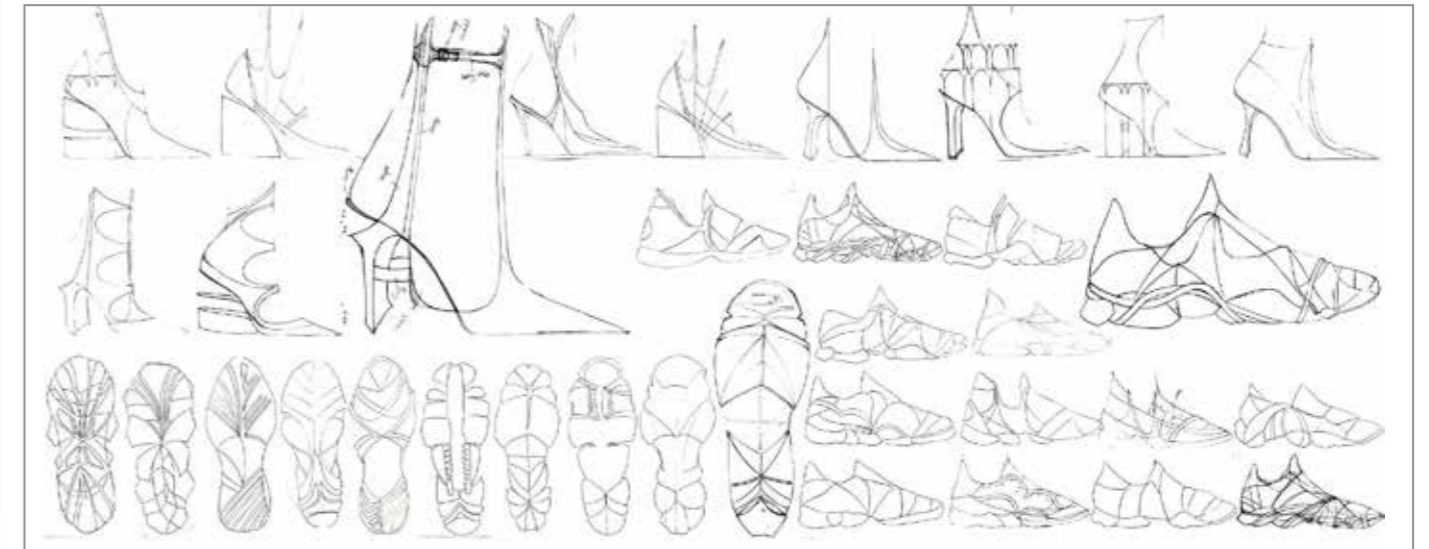
**INSPIRATION:**

The project was inspired by Cleopatra with the concept of a 'snake' that relates to her life from beginning to end.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- MODA competition finalist
- GFW size? footwear award finalist

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INSPIRATION:

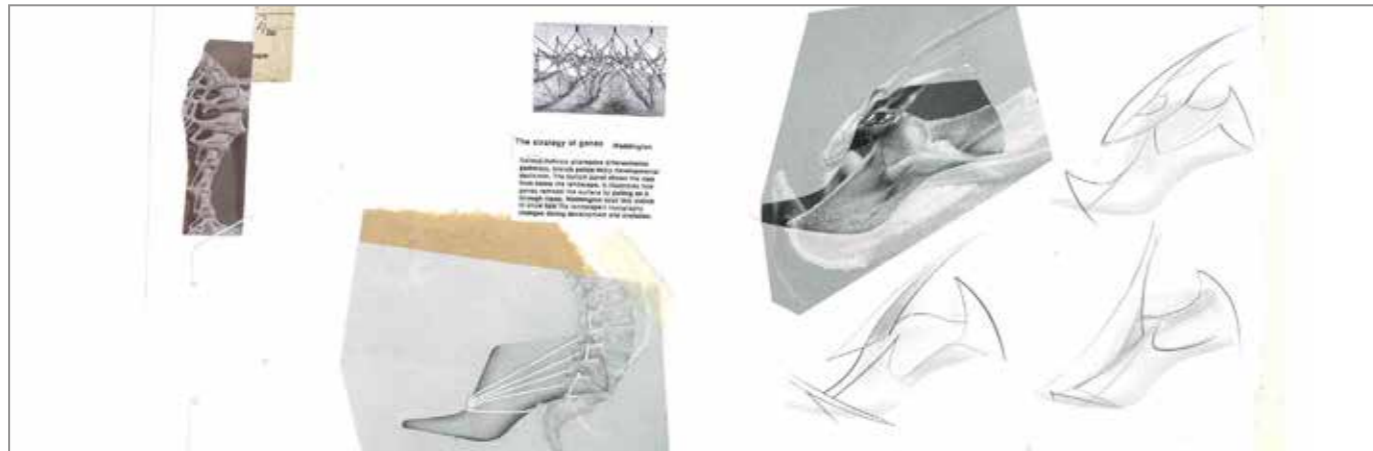
Dinka Shoe (2019) – The shoe was inspired by the Dinka corset originating in South Sudan.

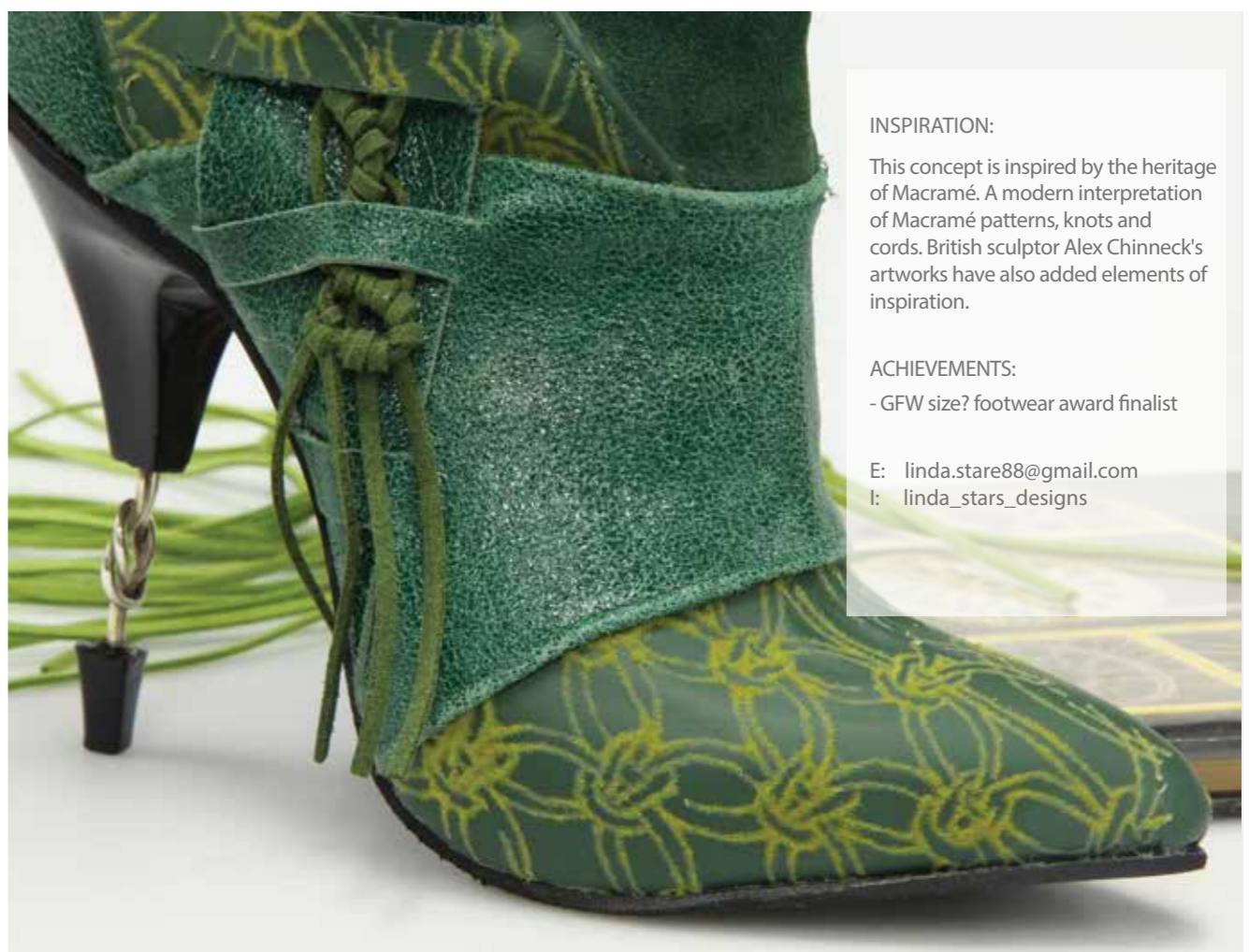
ACHIEVEMENTS:

MODA competition finalist

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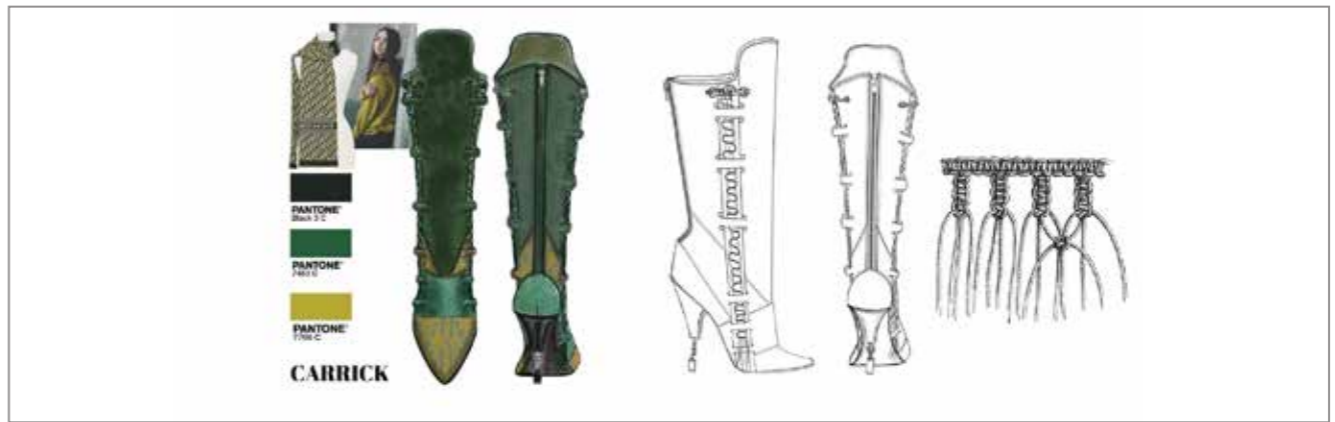


**INSPIRATION:**  
 This concept is inspired by the heritage of Macramé. A modern interpretation of Macramé patterns, knots and cords. British sculptor Alex Chinneck's artworks have also added elements of inspiration.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**  
 - GFW size? footwear award finalist

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LINDA STARE



INSPIRATION:

An experimental concept, designed to look as menacing as possible. This shoe reflects the curvature and technical aspects of the 'Glider' ... the Green Goblins (comicbook character) flying vehicle which was used for inspiration.

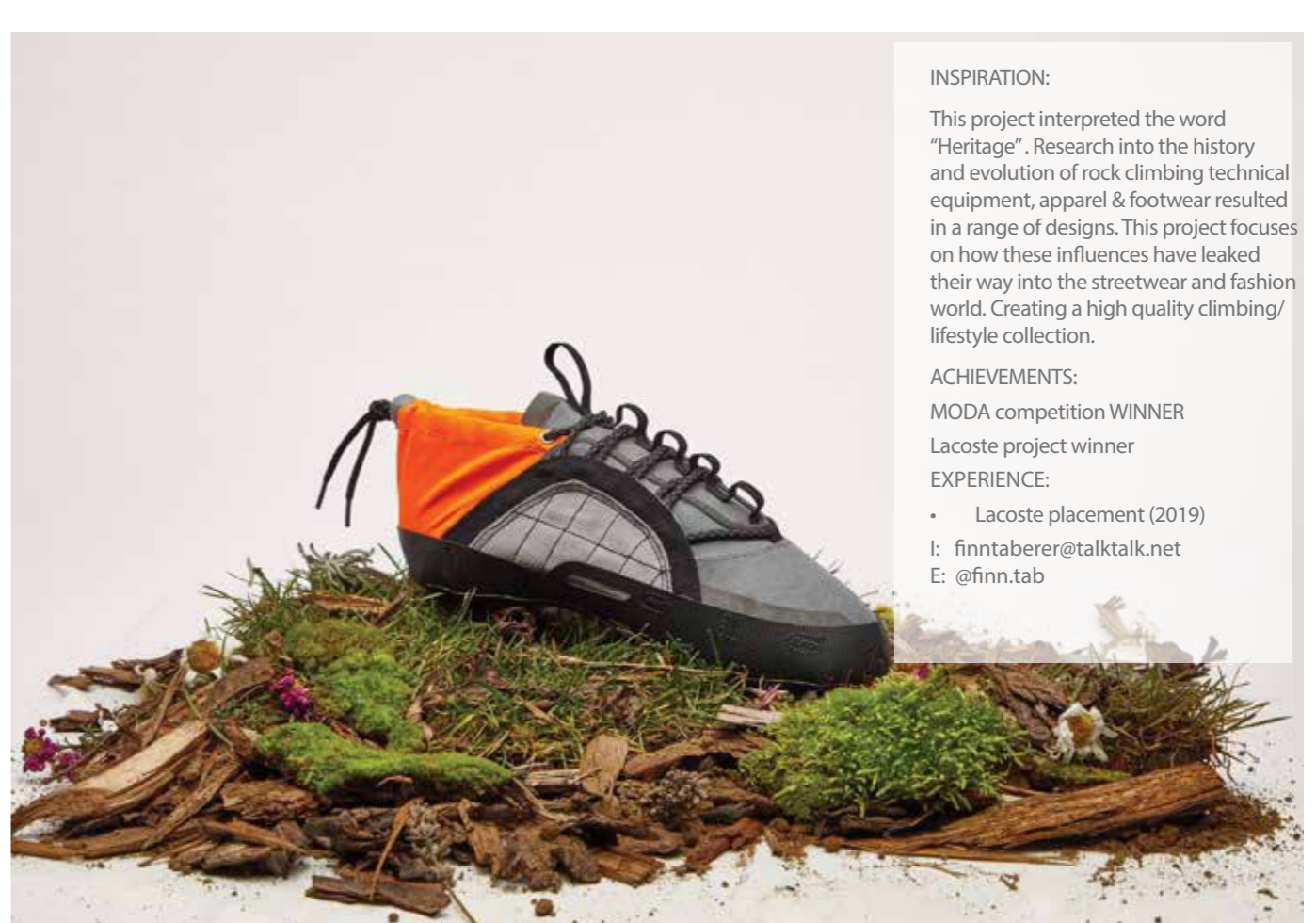
COMPETITIONS:

Winner - Biomechanics competition

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**INSPIRATION:**

This project interpreted the word "Heritage". Research into the history and evolution of rock climbing technical equipment, apparel & footwear resulted in a range of designs. This project focuses on how these influences have leaked their way into the streetwear and fashion world. Creating a high quality climbing/lifestyle collection.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

MODA competition WINNER

Lacoste project winner

**EXPERIENCE:**

- Lacoste placement (2019)

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INSPIRATION:

A kids collection inspired by space exploration to Mars. Material inspiration from space suits . 3D printed panels and sole unit.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- GFW size? footwear award finalist

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## VIJAY PATEL BUILDING

Our Footwear Design students are based in the Vijay Patel Building. This award-winning building brings all of our art and design courses together into a stunning architectural space that's been designed to provide inspiring, flexible spaces, studios and extensive facilities which invite creativity and innovation. The footwear design department has the capability to create any type of footwear from scratch with open plan design studio and workshops with pattern cutting, closing and lasting facilities.

Sitting at the heart of our recently transformed campus, this landmark building defines us as a 21st century university. It shows how serious we are about giving our students the very best experience possible and embodies our ambition to provide them with all of the tools they need to achieve their aspirations. To take a closer look at our facilities visit [dmu.ac.uk/aad](https://dmu.ac.uk/aad)



## WITH THANKS TO

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Steph Sweetmore  
Jane Schaffer  
Matthew Willis  
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Christine Davis  
Michaela Wilson-George  
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New Balance Athletics Inc. (UK)  
NIKE  
A Cold Wall  
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Joseph Cheaney & Sons  
Angell Patterns Ltd  
Annette Cove

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The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers



The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers

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