

T H A I S C I P O L L E T T A F E R R E I R A A L V E S

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Women's Luxury Leather Goods Designer with expertise in handbags, both in design and making.

Outstanding attention to detail and a problem-solver at heart, I am a sustainability and circular fashion advocate and always look for new ways to connect the consumer and the product, with a particular focus on Craftsmanship and Heritage.

I have an entrepreneurial mindset, am proactive, flexible, with good communication, management, and analytical skills.

My favourite way of designing is through making, where I combine my varied skills and transpose them into unexpected techniques.

Trailblazer in the aftercare industry, I have inspired brands, artisans, and customers to view repair as a desirable luxury experience.

W O R K E X P E R I E N C E

CO-FOUNDER AND HEAD OF ATELIER

Jun 2016 – present

The Restory

- Developed the unique restoration, re-design, repair, cleaning, personalization, and the creative sourcing techniques the company is renowned for, generating business opportunities that account for 65% of the company's revenue.
- Ensure the highest level of craftsmanship and quality in all services executed at The Restory
- Problem-solving approach to design solutions for customer's items that require repair, re-design, or care.
- Created a proprietary Restoration Training Programme where we developed 40+ Artisans and a digital library of colour recipes, luxury materials, patterns, and data from every item restored by the team (24K+ items).
- Lead the Atelier operations, commercial strategy, training, repairs production (30+ artisans) external partners, design techniques R&D and quality standards.
- Manage Efficiency throughout the operations by re-designing processes, identifying machinery, new strategies and developing user friendly tech solutions.
- Seasonal Sourcing trips to Italy and France dealing with premium material suppliers. Developed bespoke materials.
- Work in partnership with brands consulting on design solutions and new materials testing to improve Sustainability and Circularity. Ex: Manolo Blahnik.
- Curated Hero Services together with MKT, BI Analyst by analysing demand and productivity data to define our top sales and redefine pricing strategy.
 - ACHIEVEMENTS
- PR press magazine contributions such as Elle, Vogue, Tatler, WOTC
- 2021 – Contributed as an expert to the publication 'The Circular Design for Fashion' from the Ellen Mc Arthur Foundation
- 2020 - LVMH - La Maison des Start-ups: 6-month accelerator programme supporting innovative start-ups
- 2019 - Walpole - 'Brand of Tomorrow' programme to support British Luxury Brands
- 2018 - Farfetch - 'Dream Assembly' 3-month incubator accelerator programme (Lisbon-Porto-London)

WOMEN'S LEATHER GOODS DESIGNER (personal project)

2014 – 2016

- Collection of handbags that was designed by cross-skilling leather craftsmanship with womenswear pattern cutting techniques.
- Hardware (locks, frames, handles) all made by me using walnut and Scottish horn cut into laser cut machine and plugged with leather. Linings were screen printed exclusively.

FREELANCE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT/ PROTOTYPING LEATHER GOODS

Feb 2013 –

Jun 2016, Anthony Vrahimis

- Designed, prototyped, and produced handbag and leather accessories
- Dealt with clients, suppliers and attended product development meetings
- Prototyped using leather craftsmanship skills: wet moulding, hand stitching, machine stitching, skiving, plugging, upholstery, box work.
- Clients: J.W. Anderson, Sophia Webster, Yuzefi, Giles Deacon, Mulberry upholstery, Bottletop, Claire Barrow, Mormo

WOMENSWEAR FASHION DESIGNER/ FOOTWEAR DESIGNER

May 2009 – Feb 2011

Shoulder (São Paulo, Brazil)

- Designed a top seller Casual Shirts line and a Resort line within the Woven's department, working closely to the founder.
- Conducted product development meetings, liaising with pattern makers, sample makers, suppliers, and production team.
- Developed bespoke haberdashery, hardware, buttons, prints, embroidery, and hand dyeing techniques

- Researched upcoming global fashion, colour, and lifestyle trends, translating them into the brand's style and budget
- Produced technical drawings, specifying materials, costs, and instructions
- Reported sale scores, accompanied customer's feedback, presented new collections, and trained retailers during new season launch presentations, both wholesale and in-store sales team.
- Designed a casual leather footwear collection- conception, spec sheets, materials, samples, and production.
- Actively participated in the repositioning of the brand in the market.

WOMEN'S LEATHER GOODS DESIGNER AND CO-FOUNDER

Jun 2008 – Dec 2010

DOT Accessories (São Paulo, Brazil)

- Designed and developed women's leather handbags, created concept and mood boards, produced spec sheets.
- Sourced leather, materials and developed bespoke hardware for the bags (metal with resin).
- Established selling points across São Paulo, Brazil
- Developed the brand's identity and created marketing content

WOMENSWEAR FASHION DESIGNER

Dec 2008 – Apr 2009

Bloomies (São Paulo, Brazil)

- Designed and developed womenswear for brands such as Calvin Klein, Zara, Gloria Coelho, Le Lis Blanc, Daslu, Bob Store.
- Produced trend mood boards, spec sheets, sourced material, assessed samples and conducted fittings.

WOMEN'S LUXURY LEATHER GOODS DESIGNER INTERN

Apr – Aug 2007

Yumi Prado (São Paulo, Brazil)

- Produced mood boards with design concepts, material experiments and sketches to the director, designers, and merchandisers.
- Sourced new suppliers and materials, produced technical drawings, and followed sampling and production closely.

COSTUME DESIGNER

Mar – Jul 2005

COSI FAN TUTTE OPERA (São Paulo, Brazil)

EDUCATION

MA FASHION ARTEFACT | London College of Fashion

London | 2014 – 2016

Awarded an MA Scholarship by Worshipful Company of Cordwainers

BA (Hons) FASHION DESIGN | Faculdade Santa Marcelina- FASM

São Paulo | 2004 – 2007

SKILLS

- Fluent in English, Portuguese (mother tongue), Basic French
- Accessories Design, Womenswear, Sketching, Patternmaking, Draping, Material Development, Print Design
- Innovation and R&D
- Leadership, Project Management, Analysis, Reporting, Problem Solving, Organised, Flexible, Entrepreneurial
- Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop, Corel Draw, Microsoft Office
- Sustainability, Circularity, Craftsmanship, Aftercare, Restoration

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

KERING SUSTAINABILITY COURSE- Centre of Sustainable Fashion / Kering / London College of Fashion- UAL London | 2015

LEATHER GOODS: CRAFTSMANSHIP, PATTERNMAKING AND MACHINING

London | 2013

Anthony Vrahimis Studio

CUTTING EDGE FASHION: Creative Draping, Central Saint Martins- UAL

London | 2012

BUILDING A FASHION COLLECTION, Central Saint Martins- UAL

London | 2011

CREATIVE FASHION DESIGN WITH ILLUSTRATOR, Central Saint Martins- UAL

TEXTILE DESIGN & PRINT, Chelsea College of Art & Design, UAL

London | 2011

HAUTE COUTURE DRAPING AND TAILORING, Jeannine Niepceron

São Paulo, Brazil | 2010

PATTERNMAKING FOR WOMENSWEAR (180h), Senac, SP

São Paulo, Brazil | 2008