

# STEFANIE KASPAR – HANDBAG/ACCESSORIES DESIGNER

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## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

### SK Design Consultancy, London, UK

Freelance Handbag Designer working on various projects for national and international clients

**2016 – present - over 7 years**

I'm working for established UK and international brands, suppliers and factories in China, India and Europe, the USA and Australia (including the High Street, Artisan and High-end/Luxury sector).

I am also helping start ups creating a new handbag brand (from initial handbag designs, technical spec sheets, tooling up branded hardware to sampling and finally production stage).

For several years I've also specialised in VEGAN/SUSTAINABLE AND PLANT-BASED MATERIALS.

Vegan/sustainable/eco brands I've worked for/or still working for include: LaBante (UK), Jean & Len (Germany), MEL (My Euphoria Lab), Otterly Vegan (UK), Luxury Brand Devorah Victor (NYC), My Daughters London (UK), Two Green Ladies (USA).

I have experience working with Recycled materials such as RPET, recycled and organic cotton, and Plant-based leather alternatives such as Cork, Apple Skin Leather, Pineapple Leather, Cactus Leather (Desserto) and Mirum (100% PU and plastic free leather alternative with leather like appearance and touch).

Additionally to that I am taking on private projects designing custom-made handbags working closely with a high-end factory in Italy to create bespoke one-off luxury bags (leather or vegan / bio-based leather alternatives).

### LF Europe ( Li & Fung group) - Peter Black Footwear & Accessories, London, UK

Handbag Designer – Permanent Position

**2010 –2016 – for over 6 years**

Having worked for one of the UK's biggest suppliers for over 6 years gave me the opportunity to work on a huge variety of different accounts.

Brands I've worked on include: **HOUSE OF FRASER (Episode and Pied a Terre), M&S, M&S LIMITED, M&S OCCASION and M&S Sports.** as well as **Next, Debenhams (Matthew Williamson, Henry Holland), Faith, Lipsy, New Look, River Island.**

Main accounts I've designed handbags for are **DUNE** and the German brands **Venturini, Young Spirit** and **Bama.**

**Tasks included in this role:**

- Hand sketching and CAD using Illustrator and Photoshop
- Detailed technical specs for factories in the FE
- Attending workshop/design meetings with buyers & designers
- Building a rapport with customers
- Trend presentations to customers.
- Daily contact with FE factories
- Competitive Shopping across Europe and NYC
- Extensive Trendforecasting including WGSN, PPECLERS, INSIGHT and LINEAPELLE.
- Design 12 months ahead of the next season using CATWALK ANALYSIS and TREND FORECASTING
- Areas worked on include; Ladies Bags, belts, small leather goods and Soft Accessories

### Charlott Vasberg (including Catwalk collection for Matthew Williamson), London, UK

Freelance Handbag Designer

**2008-9**

**Women's bags** and purses for **AW 09/10**

- Hand sketches
- Detailed technical spec sheets
- Pattern making
- Toile making
- Factory visits in East London
- Factory visits in Florence for the Matthew Williamson collection
- Exhibiting at Trade shows

## **Wendee Ou London**

### **Freelance Handbag Design**

**2008 – for 6 months**

**Womens and Mens bags for SS 2009**

- Hand sketches
- Detailed technical spec sheets
- Pattern making
- Toile making
- Factory visits in East London

## **Chris Liu Design London**

**Freelance Designer** of complete Accessories range for **A/W 2008/09** for Yishion

**2007 for 4 months**

- Complete range of bags, shoes, belts, gloves, scarves, hats
- Detailed technical spec sheets for factories in FE
- Factory visit in China

## **Smythson of Bond Street London**

**Placement and Freelance Designer**

**2007 – for 6 months**

- Handbags and Small leather goods
- Research and shop reports
- conceptual work
- expanding existing ranges,
- designs of new small leather goods
- Illustrator drawings in actual size
- Illustrator drawings for hardware tool-up

## **Rock Galpin Studio London**

**Design Assistant**

**2005/6 for 2 years**

(Product Design and Luxury Consumer Goods)

**2003/2004 for 9 months**

**BREE, Isernhagen, Germany**

**Masters degree project**

(Handbag Design) supported by BREE

## **EDUCATION**

1998-2004 **Masters degree** in **Product Design** at University of Design and Fine Arts, Burg  
Giebichenstein, Germany

(including one year at Politecnico di Milano – Erasmus Exchange)

## ADDITIONAL SPECIALISED POST GRAD COURSES/ SHORT COURSES

2023 **Central Saint Martins College London** – Sustainable Fashion for Professionals and Brands

2008 **Central Saint Martins College London** – Fashion and Textile Forecasting course

2007-2008 **London College of Fashion** – Handbag Design specific short courses (pattern making+bag construction)

## SKILLS AND IT PROGRAMS

**Computer programs:** advanced level of CS3 Illustrator and Photoshop, Microsoft Word and Excel

3D Solidworks, basic Flash and PowerPoint

**Sketching:** good quick rough sketches, detailed handbag & accessories drawings

**Technical drawings:** with Adobe Illustrator or by hand

**Spec Sheets:** professional spec sheets for manufactures and linesheets

**Trendforecasting:** WGSN, PECLERS, STYLESIGHT, LINEAPELLE ETC.

shop reports, competitors styles and ranges, detailed Catwalk analysis (key shapes of the seasons,trends in materials, colours, trimmings etc.)

**Presentation:** trend boards, mood boards, customer profiles, presentation boards

**Conceptual work:** analysis of existing ranges in order to expand them

ideas and concepts for new product ranges

**Pattern making and Tolles:** mock-ups of samples for the factory

## LANGUAGES

**English:** fluent & fully literate

**German:** mother tongue

**Italian & French:** basic

## NATIONALITIES

**British Citizenship** and **German Citizenship**

## REFERENCES

Upon request