


# A feast for the senses

The City of Light served up a treat at February's Le Cuir a Paris presentation. Trend seekers must have been delighted with the collections put on display by the 236 exhibiting companies from 15 countries, over half of which came from Italy. As Le Cuir's stylist, Claude Vuillemet, pointed out, "colour takes centre stage" for summer 2009. And there was no shortage of refreshing effects to develop the colour palette.

Exhibitors were predominantly leather and fur producers but there were a number of companies from the textile sector, that obviously thought there was an excellent synergy between the two materials and were more at home showing in Le Cuir than being lost among the vast halls of the Premiere Vision fabric show. Host country France made up 23% of the companies showing, Spain a further 10%. ►



(LEFT) CONCERTA ITALIANA  
(CENTRE/RIGHT) BERLONZI, BRAZIL  
CREDIT: LE CUIR



*(MAIN IMAGE) CTC highlighted future leather developments such as the crushed finish and the ability to produce sharp pleats.  
CREDIT: CTC*

Whilst Brazil was represented by fewer than 10 exhibitors, they certainly brought a sense of design creativeness with them. Berlonzi was one such designer who produced some fabulous hand-loomed creations, utilising strips of leather plaited and woven with ribbons of fabric, cord and straw. The collection included beautiful creamy leathers, embroidered with self-coloured leather thongs. One of the newer exhibitors from South America, Skin Fish Aguas de Pituba, was a well-established fish farming operation. From just supplying local supermarkets with fish fillets, it has now opened its own tannery to produce excellent fish skin leather.

The Le Cuir's trend area included some novel treatments and effects, which many would have thought were strictly in the domain of textiles. Included among these were crushed, crinkly garment leathers as well as some showing permanent knife pleats usually associated with classically styled skirts. Another display mounted by the Institut Français de la Mode illustrated that the new generation of designers were not short on originality either, which must bode well for the future of the industry. 🌐

(MAIN IMAGE) MOTTA ALFREDO, ITALY; IMPERIALI ATTILIO, ITALY; DUPUY, FRANCE; CONCERIA SIRTE, ITALY  
CREDIT: LE CUIR



(LEFT) Students from IFM's post-graduate programme had the opportunity to feature their work, the result of a collaboration between the Institut and forty companies through the support of the French Glove Federation and the Bureau de Style Cuir Chaussure Maroquinerie.

(CENTRE/RIGHT) The work of Mireille Rohr, a French painter, designer and artist, was shown in The Designers' Village. She is recognised for her ability to transpose her designs and paintings on to a wide range of substrates, including leather.

CREDIT: LE CUIR