

## Next Material

Lena Eiche – Master Student Textile Produkte Design  
lena.eiche@gmx.de

### Kortex Blue

In the last couple of years it became more important to develop concepts for permanent development for humanity. The focus on Eco-Design is to create sustainable products. The main focus of Lena Eiches research work was to design something in this focus. The Eco-Design “Kortex Blue” is composed of high end, renewable and sustainable natural resources. The Design is based on natural cork pellet. These pellets are a leftover of the wine cork production. The positive natural properties of the material survive the grind process. The goal was to create a surface with the cork and the natural latex as self- adhesive. Both parts became a homogeneous batch, which was coloured with organic and inorganic pigments. Cork and natural latex are renewable materials with a better energy footprint than the synthetic latex which is made out of crude petroleum. Another positive side effect of both materials is that they are compostable. During the process different pellets were used with diverse applications. For the design of the swimwear prototype by Lena the finest pellet were selected. The result was a light structure and rubbery surface feel. The final prototype is an example for a completely sustainable concept, that is based on the right proportion in relation to the procedural interpretation: process engineering - sustainable at it's best.

**Coach:**

Prof. Dr., Dipl.-Des. Marina-Elena Wachs  
Hochschule Niederrhein - University of  
Applied Sciences

