

# Anya Gilkes-Furness

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## Profile

I am in the final year of my studies at Manchester Metropolitan University studying Fashion Design and Technology BA (Hons). I am a dedicated individual with a driven and proactive work ethic. Within my time of studies I have balanced my time management to accommodate working in industry as a womenswear designer at Voirluxe.

## About Me As A Practitioner

I am currently on a womenswear pathway however I do have strong interests in menswear and regularly research both division to inform my designs. I have a consumer focussed approach to designing, I am conscious of my environmental impact as a designer and the industry as a whole. Therefore like to consider the consumers mindset to my designs contextualise their view on the purpose and functionality of the garment and foresee the lifespan. I am passionate about the industry and keep informed of the news and trends through resources such as WGSN fashion focused magazines, exhibitions and social media platforms for both work and personal interests.

## Skills

During my Fashion Design & Technology BA (Hons) course at Manchester Metropolitan university & experience from industry work I have developed relevant skills such as ;

-Proficient in using Adobe software, Microsoft software and using wacom extensions to assist in creation of CADs.

-Confident using CLO3D software for digital design purposes and sampling.

-Extensive industrial machinery knowledge including 5 years of experience using industrial machines.

-Proficient pattern cutting both manually and using Gerber software.

-In-depth Textile knowledge through experience with textile laboratory testing and creating reports to inform fabric choices.

-Ability to compile Industry standard garment specification packs and confidently liaise with manufacturers throughout the process from initial design through sampling with experience from my work at Voirluxe.

-Trend and cultural awareness within the Fashion community through regularly using resources such as WGSN, Mintel, Just-Style.com, LinkedIn.

## Experience

### Voirluxe - Current position

I started as an intern designer at Voirluxe in 2020 and have since progressed to lead womenswear designer position. I work in a small design team consisting of myself and an intern and we consult designs & ideas with the CEO. At Voirluxe I am responsible for trend forecasting & sourcing, presenting designs and fabrications, creating spec packs for the designs and liaising with manufactures from the initial design and throughout the sampling process. This has been a particularly exciting position as I worked on the relaunch of the brand and had the opportunity to take on large responsibilities.

### Property Potential, Hull - Current position

At property potential I work alongside a tight team of skilled individuals to renovate 47 properties for the buy to let market and investors. Within this company I am primarily responsible for, but not limited to, the legal process of purchasing and sales of property and the interior design and styling. The challenges I face in this role are meeting time sensitive deadlines and respecting and adhering to budgets.

### Tomahawk, York

My position was front of house waitress, within this position I enjoyed delivering excellent service going above my standard duties to ensure customers enjoyed their experience would return as the restaurant was a new business I understood this to be of particular importance. Within my time at Tomahawk I was given the opportunity of promotion head waitress and management roles.

### Urban Outfitters, York

As a retail assistant I was to keep up to date with the product range and current advised styling for both the visual merchandising of my department and for customer styling advice. As a retail assistant I was a brand representative and was my duty to uphold the brands identity and ensure an excellent shopping experience to customers.

### Pretty Little Thing, Manchester

At Pretty Little Thing I was trailed as a Fit model, during this time I worked one to one with designers to understand the sampling process and assessment of fit and functionality of garments. During this experience I gained valuable insight into the sampling process and the importance of communicating designs thoroughly as complications during the manufacturing process are costly both in finance and time.

## Education & Qualifications

September 2018 -2022

Manchester Metropolitan University  
Fashion Design & Technology BA(Hons)  
Predicted grade 1:1

September 2016 to June 2018

York College Fashion & Clothing  
Extended Diploma Grade:  
Distinction

September 2011 to 2016

Millthorpe Secondary School achieving  
9 GCSE grades from A-C

British Full Driving licence 2018