As for trends for next winter... there is still a lightness and softness to yarns, giving the impression of weightlessness and airy volume. Yarns are either very fine, or very big, made by multiplying to create chunky, but light, airy yarns.

Fancy yarns come in a variety of mixed mouliné or jaspé twists. Where last year there had been more 'caged' big yarns, this time there were more chunky, multiplied yarns, alongside, not so much fluffy as furry, plush velvety surfaces, crafted with full round yarns or bouclés, sometimes with metallic sparkle. Tape yarns are still prominent, in a variety of blends, twists and sizes, from tiny to large.

Natural fibres, wool and noble fibres are all ingredients in spinners collections, in countless combinations of blends or twists, and mixes of colour – and, quite often, with a touch of metallic. Noble fibres were prominent, in blends with other fibres, with alpaca still especially strong, and some spinners have also included yak fibre. Cashmere remains a luxury staple for winter, both pure and in blends with other fibres.

Italian cashmere specialist Cariaggi, taking inspiration from decorative Constantinople and the Ottoman empire, has introduced very light, carpety bouclé cashmere yarns, also in tweedy effects. It also has the finest of veil yarns, in silk/Lurex for transparent knits and pattern, and a

The theme for the A/W 15/16 season at the Spazio Ricerca in Pitti Filati, was 'MADE IN', which focussed on the added value of a product made with a high craft content, using traditional techniques, while also using advanced technologies. One of the ten mood themes presented, was created by the San Patrignano Weaving Workshop, which made 25 tableux, expressed in hand weaving, inspired by the landscapes, colours and materials of the Australian outback. The workshop, a rehab project to give opportunities to learn craftsmanship, also presented a collection of hand woven scarves, shawls and blankets.

Much creative research has gone into the making of yarns by Italian spinners, as well as investment in advanced machinery, in order to stay ahead. Yarn collections become ever more sophisticated as each introduced new, often unique blends, while quality seems even higher, thanks also to choice of raw material.
cashmere/silk melange. Cashmere is also dyed with natural dyes, also multiplied into big airy yarns. An important Blue colour story persists, going into grey and white (snow in Istanbul). Another effect is a leather look in the yarn, which is achieved with a finish.

Scotland’s Todd & Duncan has pure cashmere melange colours, also in the popular ‘denim’ blues collection, used in multiple denim looks or jacquard tweeds. But, its Scottish heritage is also important in the Hebridean collection in heathery tones, with new tweed yarns in pure cashmere with multi-coloured Donegal knops, and a cashmere/silk blend with a wonderful touch. Knits were shown in a theme taken from sculptor Louise Bourgeois with repeating forms.

Mitchells of Peru, with repeating forms. Knits were shown in a theme taken from sculptor Louise Bourgeois with repeating forms.

EVER FINER AND SOFTER WOOLS

The focus of the company is not to compete with China, but to do something different and unique each season – which is how they came to also specialise in functional yarns for workwear and sportswear, in blends of extrafine merino and technical fibres with heat and moisture regulating properties.

Filart’s innovation for light wearability in knitwear, winter is an intimate blend of wool/cotton, an extrafine merino and technical fibres with heat and moisture regulating properties. Cashmere yarn. A velvety or furry effect is achieved with a finish. Mixes or fancy twists with viscose perfectly timed choice of garment since kimonos became luxury fibres.

Filpucci, another part of Filmar’s network also specialises in mohair spinning and sculptural elements, including Arran style cables, often in flecked effects with jaspé and sculptural elements, including Arran style cables, often in flecked effects with jaspé and viscose. A warm hand, also in a chain yarn with a soft touch.

Filmar has established a network of brands to extend its range of options, including the Filmarinnov consortium brand, which promotes the best dyed mercerised cotton. A star of Filmar’s collection is the finest of Egyptian cotton, becoming luxury fibres. Zegna Baruffa, Tweedsmuir has pure cashmere melange colours, also in the popular ‘denim’ blues collection, used in multiple denim looks or jacquard tweeds. But, its Scottish heritage is also important in the Hebridean collection in heathery tones, with new tweed yarns in pure cashmere with multi-coloured Donegal knops, and a cashmere/silk blend with a wonderful touch. Knits were shown in a theme taken from sculptor Louise Bourgeois with repeating forms.

Todd & Duncan

With alpacas very much in fashion, alpaca specialist Mitchell’s of Perú has seen big changes, expanding its range, as the markets for alpaca grow over the years. Alongside its classic alpaca yarns are fancy yarns with alpacas, including furry effects in tape yarn and bouclés, and several new blends with other fibres.

Manufactura Sosúa has many alpaca mixes in their collection, often in natural colours (Shake, Perú) or with tiny specks of bright ‘Smarties’ colours – as well as new yarns in their ‘organic’ range (Sissoa biologico), Bioerc and Nuvolari, which are also mixes of wool and alpaca. Fancy yarns included furry effects in Mossa and Furett, as well as sequinned yarns, which add wool, such as Galea and the new Filubre (silk and polyester).

EVER FINER AND SOFTER WOOLS

Denim Italiano

Traditionally a worsted spinner, Saffi has expanded with a strong focus on new technologies, making some of the finest yarns, with a high technological content. It was one of the first spinners to launch X-Compact Technology into the knitwear market, a compact spinning system, using only new wool which produces a cleaner smoother yarn, with less hairiness and a better pilling performance than conventional spinning.

Denim – the biggest textile business globally – was also on show at Pitti Filati, for the first time in a project which was dedicated to the Italian denim garment-dyed supply chain. And in this exhibition, pairing denim with knitwear was a brilliant and interesting feature, which visitors thoroughly enjoyed.

Cotonificio Ferrari, see page 18

Filpucci

at is treated to be water repellent and quick drying – also in mixes with stretch fibre Elile and viscose.

Viscose specialist Filipucci, includes a large selection of wool and worstedcashmere for winter, in fine counts as well as big multiplied yarns with a mouliné or jacquard look, and its very successful recycled cashmere yarn. A velvety or furry effect is provided with yarns Kirá, a cashmere/ superfine mohair mix, and Mules in alpaca/ merino/polyamide, while its Viacrozé is still a strong yarn.

COTTON SPINNERS WARM UP FOR WINTER

Cotton is selectable adapted move for winter, as spinners expand ranges with a variety of blends and mixes. Cotton specialist Filmar has established a network of brands to extend its range of options, including the Filmarinnov consortium brand, which promotes the best dyed mercerised cotton. A star of Filmar’s collection is the finest of Egyptian cotton, becoming luxury fibres. Zegna Baruffa, Tweedsmuir has pure cashmere melange colours, also in the popular ‘denim’ blues collection, used in multiple denim looks or jacquard tweeds. But, its Scottish heritage is also important in the Hebridean collection in heathery tones, with new tweed yarns in pure cashmere with multi-coloured Donegal knops, and a cashmere/silk blend with a wonderful touch. Knits were shown in a theme taken from sculptor Louise Bourgeois with repeating forms.

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Filaş 60 YEARS SPINNING

At Italian spinner Saffi, celebrating its 60th birthday, a significant new development for winter is an intimate blend of wool/cotton, an innovation for light wearability in knitwear, offered in melange colours, and also shown in felted effects. Drawing inspiration from nature, yarns for winter also come in fine woods, and blends of alpaca/wool and wool/viscose.
according to themes, a creative showcase of the most important companies and designers in the Italian denim sector — denim wearers as well as those in dyeing, finishing and making up, all presented their products. This is a sector with unique characteristics, which creatively uses denim or denim finishes, to show just what could be done.

The concept will be taken to Milano Unica in September, with an array of sample products and accessories produced exclusively to display the expertise of the companies involved.

**THE JAPAN OBSERVATORY**

At Milano Unica, for the first time, the ‘Japan Observatory’, will take place in Milano Unica to showcase selected Japanese fabric manufacturers to highlight a ‘Japan Quality’ in design and fabrics, which is often made combining traditional techniques with cutting edge technology.

**FEOLE YARN BENEFITS**

The Feel the Yarn student competition, took place for the 5th time at Pitti Filati, to find a winner from the 19 young participating designers from eight international design schools. But this is a project in which all participants are winners, through the terific opportunity to learn from working with the sponsoring spinners, who provide the yarn to make the student outfits. During the project, the student designers, coordinated by Orsella Bigonzi, are shown the complexities of yarn making, and asked to design and sew two outfits with yarn from their partner spinner around a theme. The 38 outfits were selected design graduates in London, at the Chelsea College of Art, following the selection — all of whom will benefit from the Texprint event — and exhibitions — the task of selecting the very best of the best is given to a panel of experts and influencers, to review and choose the Texprint Award winners for Body, Space, Pattern and colour. The four prize winners will be announced during the design show Indigo (part of Premiere Vision in Paris) where all the designers will be showing their work. Among the selected designers were... Charlotte Beever, whose print designs have colour at their heart, in complicated compositions — shapes and marks taken from a variety of imagery, resultng in a beautifully expressive and deliciously colourful composition. Flett Bertram’s complex stitched and manipulated cord and embroidery pieces transform the fabric. Organic quality — inspired by shells, capturing their organic and undulating curves — which are aimed at the domestic market, which involves wearing swimwear for many hours, with the aim of enhancing their spa performance. Tests demonstrated that the factors that most stimulate human physical well being — such as thermal water, steam, high temperature, mud, perfumes, cosmetics and culls — are fabric’s worst enemies. But during that time, tests found that the JL products Wonder and Renee Prime both showed outstanding resistance under the most challenging conditions.

**EUROPEAN PRESENCE GROWS AT INTERTEXTEXT SHANGHAI**

This is a fair that just keeps on growing, including the European presence. At the next event in October, over 3,500 exhibitors from more than 30 countries and regions are expected, to show a very diverse range of apparel fabrics and accessories. The top most popular features of the fair again will be country/region pavilions including Japan, which European exhibitors will have a large presence showing the latest fabrics and accessories from Europe, all looking to meet the growing demand for high-end products in the domestic market.

**COUNTRY PAVILIONS FROM GERMANY, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, TURKEY, THE UK AND FRANCE WILL RETURN, AS WELL AS THE MILANO UNICA PAVILION FROM ITALY.**

The best of British textiles will be showing in this year’s UK Pavilion, with premium long established suppliers taking part — such as Liberty Art Fabrics, a name synonymous with luxury and design, a leading brand of high quality circular knit fabrics for swimwear and intimate wear, has been looking at what people wear in thermal baths and Wellness centres. Working with Invista with it’s Lyeva Xtra Life fibre, extensive tests were carried out in the spa environment, which involved wearing swimwear for many hours, with the aim of enhancing their spa performance. Tests demonstrated that the factors that most stimulate human physical well being — such as thermal water, steam, high temperature, mud, perfumes, cosmetics and culls — are fabric’s worst enemies. But during that time, tests found that the JL products Wonder and Renee Prime both showed outstanding resistance under the most challenging conditions.

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by such status symbols as falcons, lace and ceremonial armour.

Jessica Hymas, a clever knit designer, who, inspired by colour and pattern found in the underwater world, fish and their natural fluorescent colours and translucent textures, created a beautiful collection of subtly fluid, translucent moving knits and hand crochet pieces.

Jane Han Zang, has created stunning pieces rooted in hand painting, printed with large sweeping brush strokes and different marks, sometimes pleated, in sophisticated colours with real impact – creatively inspired by different cultures, combining illustration, painting and mark making.

A PEEK AT NEW DESIGNERS 2014
And, finally, with so much talent on view at New Designers, impossibly difficult to select, but noticeable was how many good print designers were graduating with well researched collections. Techniques were explored – hand screen printing as well as digital, creative finishes, painting and dyeing techniques, as well as discharge and devoré printing. Among the many showing were;

Sian Clarke (Swansea Metropolitan University) exploring devoré printed velvets.

Angela Khon (Swansea Metropolitan University) with cyanotype printing whereby her imagery was revealed on the cloth under UV light.

Maya Dunn (Loughborough University) had also explored devoré printing on velvet.

Emma Formston (Loughborough University) drew and painted myriad flowers in a lively and colourful way.

ONE YEAR ON
Georgia Bocchetta, who has set up her own business, digitally printing her own designs and fabrics in Italy to make into large statement pieces in clothes and scarves.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ARIE VERVELDE
It is with the greatest sadness that we announce the death of Arie Vervelde, who passed away aged 63 on 28th July 2014. He was much appreciated and much loved by the world of education, publishing and fashion.

His career spanned: The Cotton Institute NL; The Dutch Fashion Institute; Illustrations For Textilia, Gap Italia, Elegance, Man, Margriet, View, De Telegraaf newspaper; collaborations With Du Pont, Heimtex, the Stijlinstituut Amsterdam; worked with Gucci and Moschino to name a few; and adored lecturer and teacher at the Design Academy in Eindhoven and ARTez, Arnhem. He was awarded The Grand Seigneur Award in 1998, Holland’s highest recognition, for his work in fashion.

He has worked with View Publications since our launch in 1988 providing covers, concepts and illustrations covering fashion and interior design right up until his death. He was not only much valued but also much loved by all the staff here. Fashion and textiles is a wonderful but not always easy business. In all the years we have known Arie, we have never heard one word spoken badly about him nor he speak badly about anyone or anything.

A fuller obituary will appear in the next issue of Textile View.