

24-PAGE  
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SUPPLEMENT

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shopping  
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OF DESIRE

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metallic eye*  
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SPECIAL

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# ELLE *eco*heroes

“Our mission is to PRESERVE  
and promote ancient crafts”

PETER D'ASCOLI



THE MALKHA PROJECT BY  
MAYANK MANSINGH KAUL, 27;  
ANEETH ARORA, 28; AND  
PETER D'ASCOLI, 49

It can be challenging for women in India to build a 'green' wardrobe. Which is why three contemporary designers Mayank Mansingh

friendly solutions with The Malkha Project.

After working together on a retail project over a year ago, they realised

the malkha fabric, which could at the same time fulfill the growing need for sustainable solutions in the luxury sector. Malkha, a combination of *matal* and *khadi*, is hand-woven in Indian villages with cotton produced on family-owned farms. After a successful launch at

(Hyderabad) and are hoping to make London their next stop.

Mayank, a textile graduate from NID explains, "The use of *desi* variety short staple cotton combined with technological input makes the entire process (from field to cloth) village based." The end product is "a soft cotton fabric that dyes well, has great texture and gets better with every wash," adds Aneeth, another National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad graduate, who often works with this versatile fabric for her own label, Pero.

What makes this project click is that whilst retaining their personal styles, each of them has brought their own fresh perspective on the fabric. For Peter who studied decorative art and apparel from Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, working with malkha has been, "a celebration of traditional Indian and classic European prints. An eclectic mix of all decorative traditions". While Mayank's aesthetic is minimal and chic, Aneeth has added block printing and *bandhen* on indigo-dyed malkha. ▶

ASHDEEN LILAOWALA