



Neil Christopher

Designer Director and Brand Development at ARN 2.0 &RD, freelance Design and Development Consultant

📍 London, UK

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Languages

English (Native)

About

Throughout my career, I have worked on a diverse range of collections, from light jerseys to heavyweight tweeds. My experience includes working on both men's and women's collections, with a focus on modern body shapes and fit. I have had the opportunity to work with renowned brands such as Nike, Adidas, and Carhartt, building style and garment archives for them.

In addition to my design skills, I have also developed new cutting/design/cloth processes and researched vintage patterns to create heritage-based cloths. I have a strong understanding of fabric development and sourcing, having worked with suppliers in the EU, USA, and Japan. Furthermore, I have managed design teams both in Japan and the USA, showcasing my leadership abilities)

Experience

● Freelance Design and Development

| Apr 2011 -

Collaborations, design and development projects within ARN Mercantile include:

Nigel Cabourn: 2011 – to date , Collaborations on technical Heritage and Tailoring collections working within trousers, shirting and bottoms and outerwear development/tailoring/shape/design, to re-focus the brand over all on fit, function, form and fabric. The also designed/developed the woman's tailoring working on lighter weight cloths to build a coherent collection story that would overflow into the men's. Due to this work NC now has a bottoms business adding 35% to his over all production within three seasons

Renfold Denim 2016 to date. On going development of styles and fabric for the ASOS market, standalone collections and cross market Co-Labs

Lee Cooper, The Cooper Collection, 12/16-10/17, Design and development of the LCCC, brought together the garment production (Italian) and cloth development (Japan) and design (London/Paris), took whole project from concept to complete. men's and women's denim collections, this was the first step into higher end denim and has been establish within the business increasing profile and position

ECOALF, 10/16-2/17, Stand alone project within the main collection, to show, shaped and tailored garments, with a focus on the movement of the cloths. men's and women's collection, ARN was first choice to highlight the unique nature of EcoAlf eco technical fabrics, in this ongoing rolling co-lab which now runs with 9 other brands, this has increase the public image of EA in Japan and the US

● Owner, Head Designer, Pattern Cutter, Production and Design Manager, Fabric development.

| Apr 2002 -

ARN Mercantile is a small design/tailoring lead brand, developing both it's own brand and 'own brands' for outside clients The focused is on sustainability, reduced waste 3D design and cutting, fit and developing a product aimed towards a mid-range/High end fashion buyer, both men's and women's . ARN is a continuation of the 'Tool Project' we originally started at Kato, the wearing being part of the process, fit and movement are key elements, we reworked all our co-labs and production to improve fit. As well as own label, we worked with large companies Designing /developing product, cutting patterns and garments for Levis(main line and heritage), Ships, JS Homestead, Nigel Cabourn, Massimo Osti archive, Kato, Outer limits.... etc. The business is mainly aimed at the Asia markets with America being a secondary market. Duties included:

Built the business from ground up, one of the first total Sustainable ECO brands in the Japanese market, completed 33 seasons (ARN) from concept to market

Taking sketch to finished garment, making toile pieces and body adjustment. Working with sample production and full scale wholesale production

Direct productions method, to decrease time loss in production, thus increasing profit margin

Managed design team, production team, developed Fabrics, working with weavers to build new processes to enable 'ECO' standards to be exceeded, production to increase output and reduce waste.

Cutting/designing a range of 80+ garment per season, cutting by hand for base patterns and developing grades both by hand and with Gerber systems.

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Lee Cooper, The Cooper Collection, 12/16-10/17

Design and development of the LCCC

ECOALF, 10/16-2/17

ARN was first choice to highlight the unique nature of EcoAlf eco technical fabrics

● Project and Brand development

| Jul 1997 -

Brand development, web site traffic growth, web site UI and advertising revenue. Developed brand strategy and statistics systems.

Strategic Consulting, including business plan & sales strategy development.

Advising new businesses on formation of corporations and business structures, drafting privacy policies and structuring commercial transactions.

Generated new development deals for a real estate development company that focuses on multi-family residential projects, including real-estate market analysis.

Comprehensive database management and migration from SQL to Oracle.

● Production and buyer manager

| May 1995 -

Overseeing the switch from US to European production (full range) Sourcing new factories and developing new accessories ranges and fabric and product production for 'non clothing' ranges. Developing store/brand profile using a system of product launch and processes that bring the non-seasonal product in line with the seasonal. Performance testing and global production Used outside sources for fabric to begin with and then developing new fabric and uses whilst retain the basic 'Carhartt feel/ideals' Using archived shapes and blocks to produce a range that would complement the traditional product and bring newer fabric. Developing non-clothing and accessories to open the brand up and introduce back to the US Carhartt as a more complete brand. Set up entire running of shop from original concept through interior design and shop fit/building work Hiring staff and managing shop accounts Overseeing brand PR Product placement and wholesale sales

● too many years ago to remember

| 1990 -

Buyer, seller and shop manager

● Design/Production/Redliner and collector

| Feb 1989 -

P.K.H. was a cross-product vintage collective, started in 1988 to simply move ragging, I joined in 1989 to help run the stores (13) and find new product, spent three years travelling across the US, buying and selling everything from XXX Levis, vintage sneakers, old work clothing to car and signage.

As we developed the stores the need for garments/product rose so we

opened a factory, I ran the design and production as well as helping the 'scourers' to bring in new items. Showed at the Rose Bowl and other vintage fairs as well as building an archive and direct sales to other collectors across the world.

Developing new ranges blocking and shaping new patterns to hold the original ideals

Fabric development/sourcing and product production for 'non clothing' ranges. Developing store/brand profile using a system of product launch and processes that bring the non-seasonal product in line with the seasonal. Performance testing and global production.

Developing new fabric and uses whilst retain the basic feel/ideals' Using archived shapes and blocks to produce a range that would complement the traditional product and bring newer fabric. Developing non-clothing