



Review on Traditional Indian Garment Construction: It Is All About Details

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Abstract: Traditional Indian garments are known for their vibrant colour, intricate embellishment, and a zero-waste geometrical construction at their core. This chapter reviews the significance of the structural details and finishing techniques used in these garments, including the miani (gusset), kali (panel), gundi and tukama (fastenings), kheesa/jeb (pockets), and sinjaf (facing), among others, and examines their contribution to a garment's beauty, aesthetics, and functionality. The review draws on secondary sources -- books, journal articles, and museum specimens -- alongside garments held in private collections. It brings together, for the first time in one place, collated information on the trims and constructional details used in Indian garments, and discusses their visual and functional impact on the ease, comfort, and performance of the garment. The review finds that indigenous terminology and construction knowledge are at risk of being lost as intangible heritage, and argues for their systematic documentation as a resource for designers, students, and scholars working with Indian textile and garment traditions.

Keywords: Pattern making, garment finishing, gusset construction, panelling techniques, fastenings, textile heritage.

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