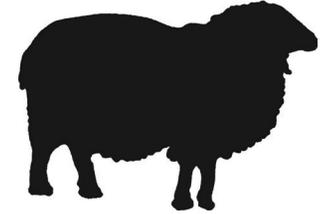
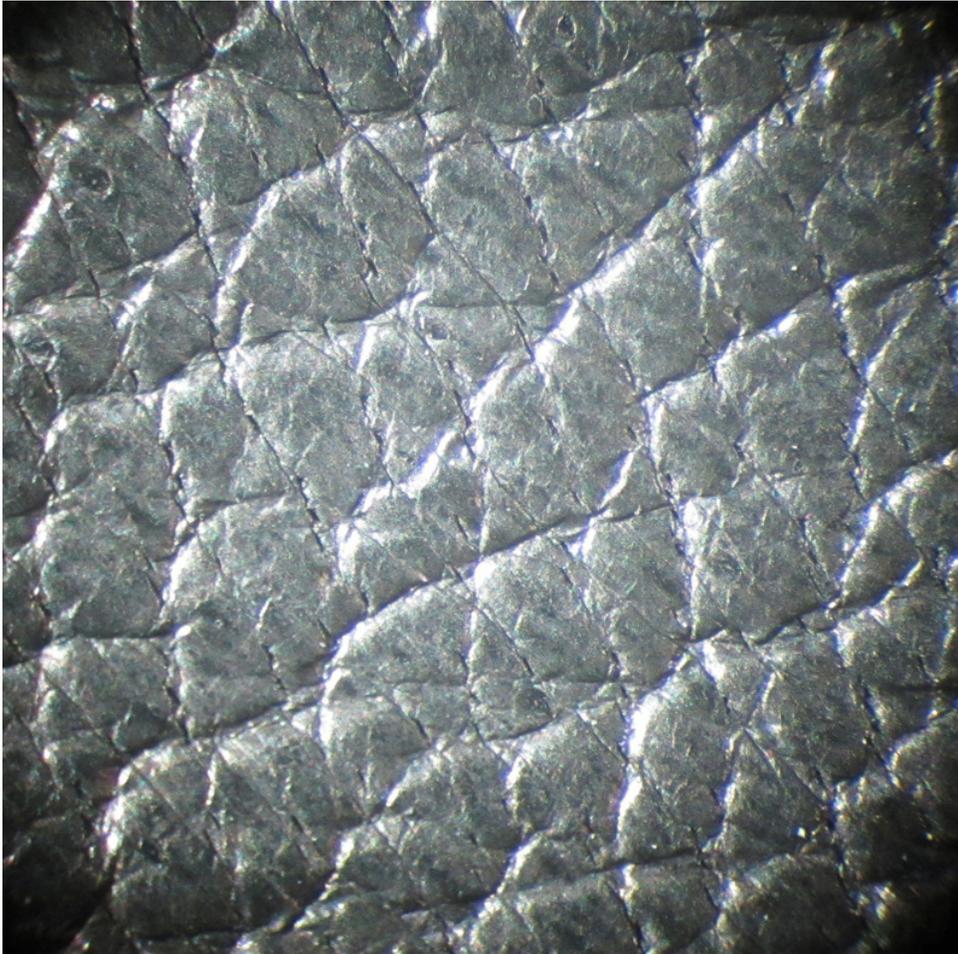


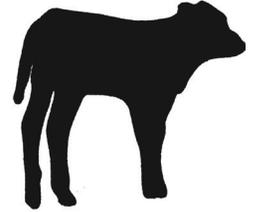
PATENT LEATHER

Patent leather was developed during the late 18th century, but it was not until 1818 that Samuel Boyden developed a linseed-oil treatment that gives patent leather its distinctive, high-gloss finish. That luster is often associated with formal wear, as evidenced by the Balenciaga evening dress on view elsewhere in this exhibition.



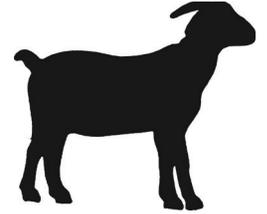
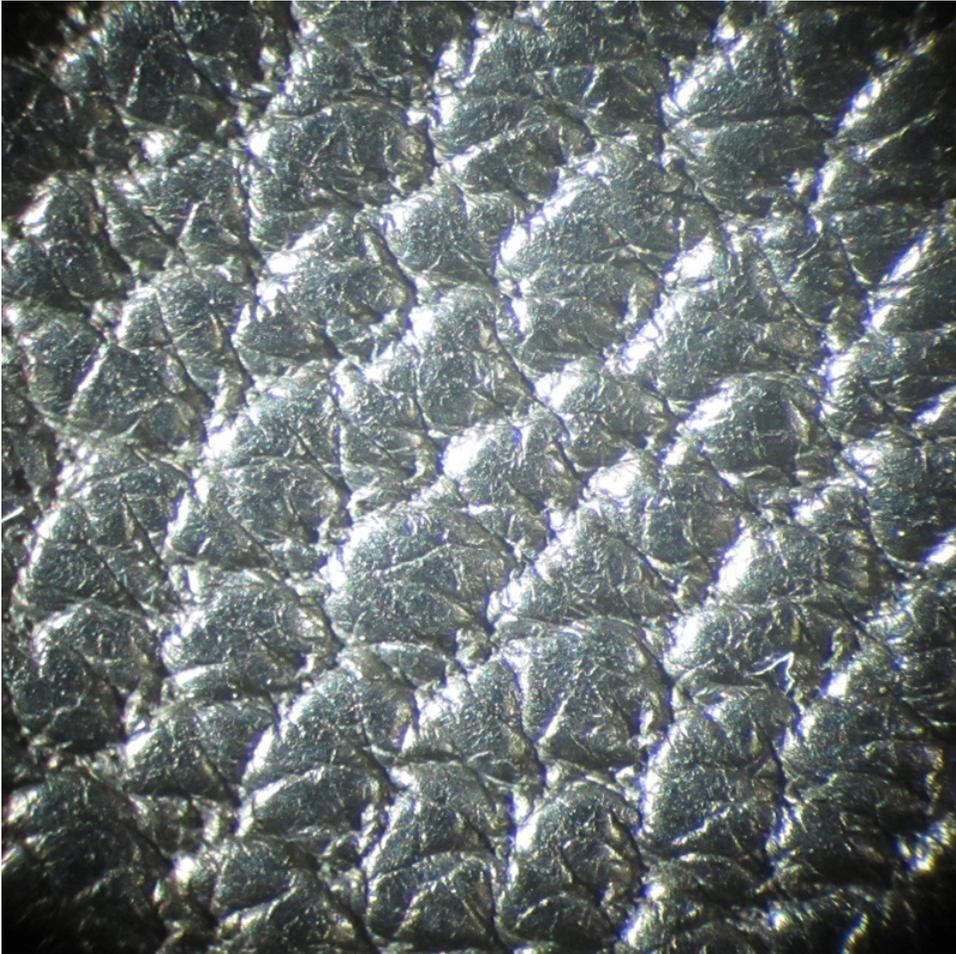
LAMBSKIN

Lambskin tends to be lighter and more malleable than cowhide, and it has a more even surface. This fine, breathable leather is also more comfortable to wear. It lends itself to a softer drape, as can be seen in the leather used for the jumpsuit by Stefano Pilati for Yves Saint Laurent.



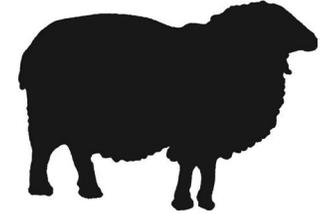
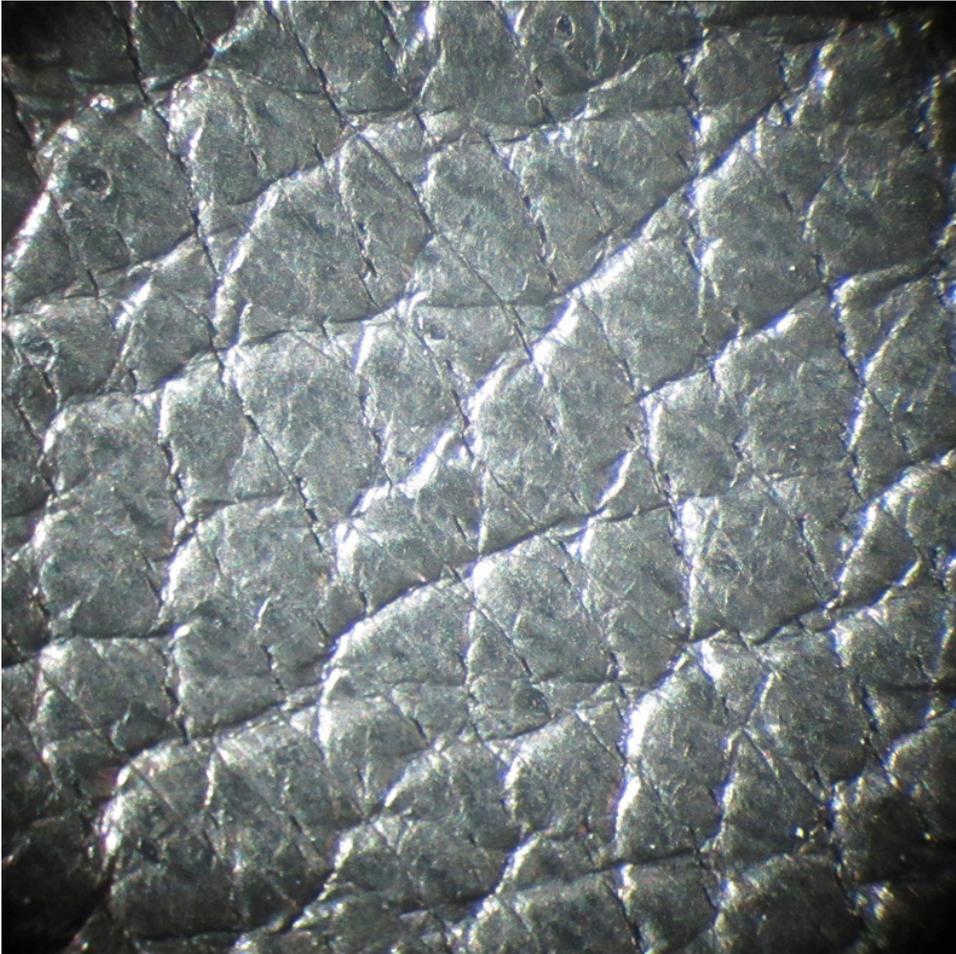
COATED CALFSKIN

Chrome tanning was developed in 1858 and yields a softer leather than does vegetable tanning. The stiffness of this leather comes from the thickness of the split and the coated finish. The *Comme des Garçons Biker + Ballerina* ensemble uses similar leather to create a sculptural form.



GOATSKIN

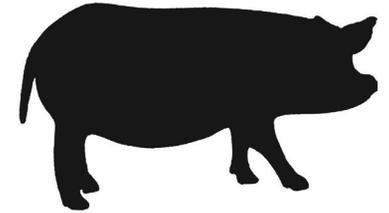
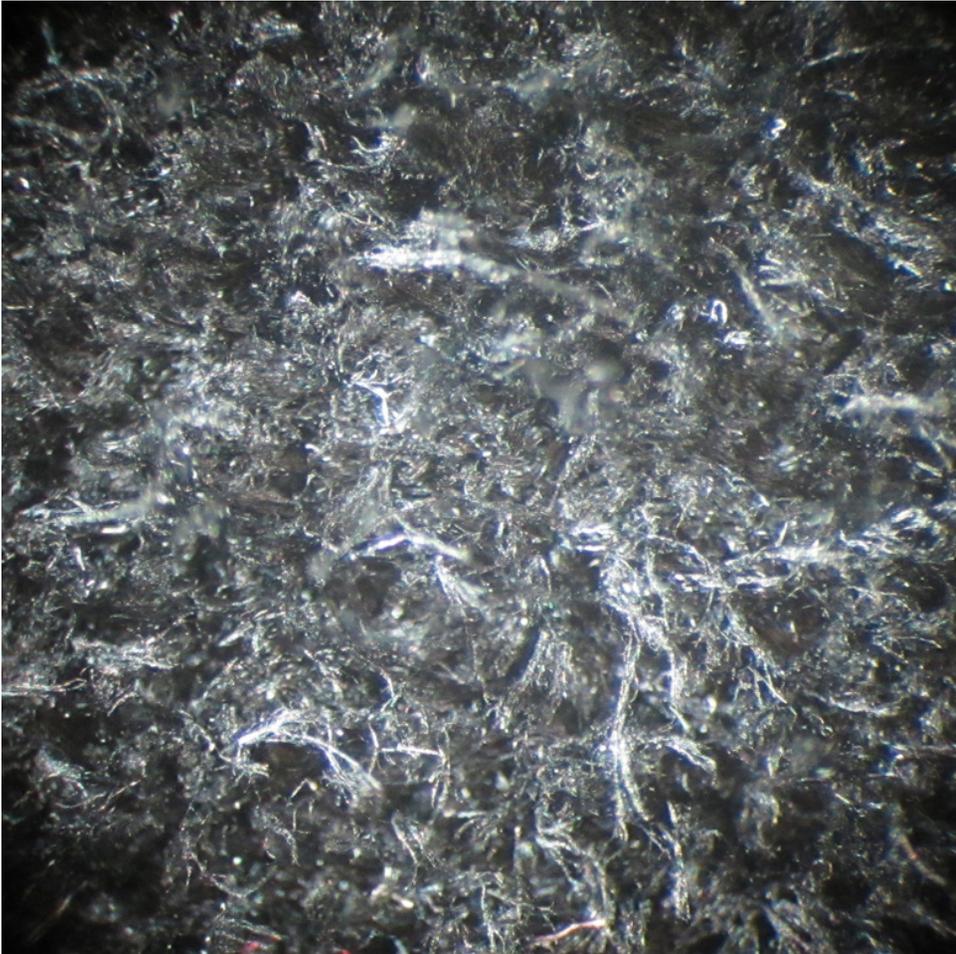
Goatskin is durable and is used for everything from kid gloves to drum heads. The finest Moroccan leather is full-grain goatskin, meaning that its surface has not been buffed or sanded. This ensures the leather's strength and breathability.



LAMBSKIN

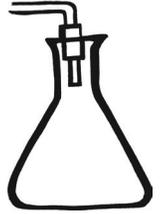
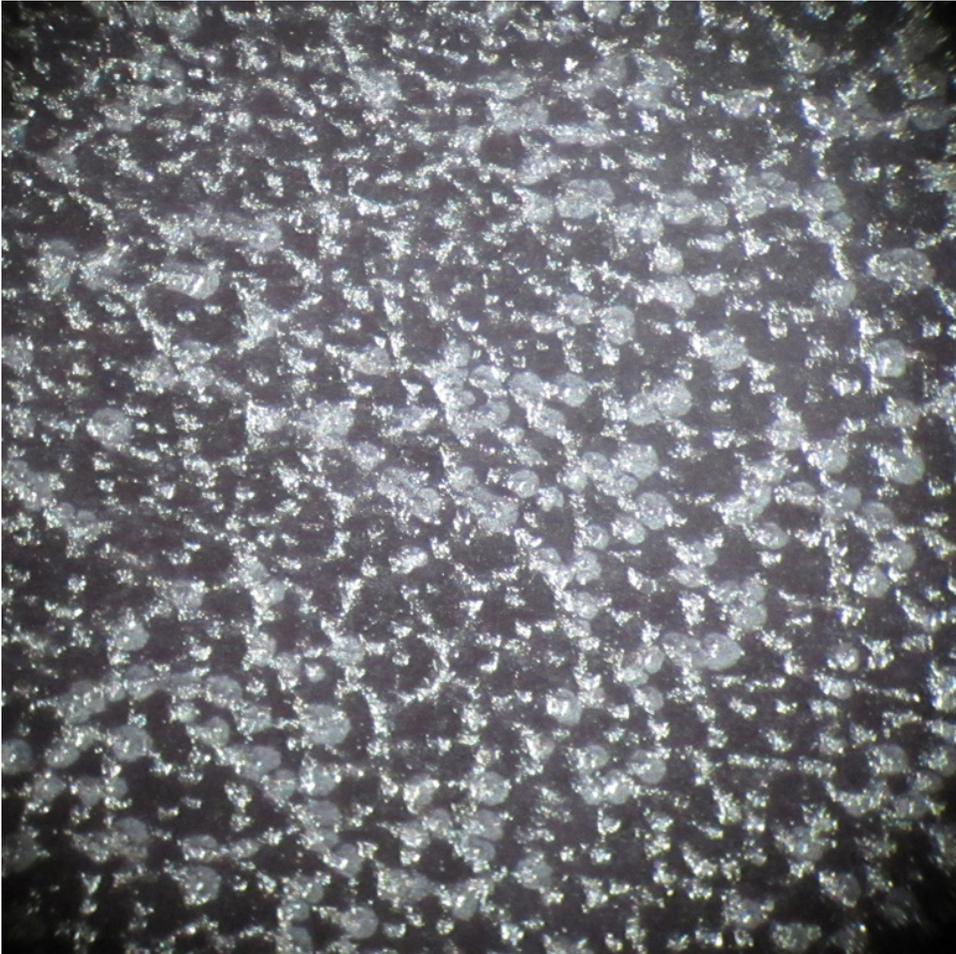
Trapunto, from the Italian “to quilt,” is a decorative technique that adds dimension to a flat textile. Padding is stitched between two layers to raise the surface of the material. As on the exhibition’s Jean Paul Gaultier jacket, concentric circles are worked from the center out to accommodate the volume of the padding.

*Trapunto sample by Gabrielle Litterio,
accessories design student, FIT*



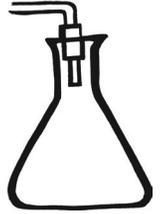
PIGSKIN SUEDE

Pigskin is ideal for suede. It is naturally thin, yet tough and durable. Different from other skins, it is not split. Because the top is dull and has large, deep pores, its finished surface is not ideal, but the underside is soft and supple. Pigskin thus yields a comfortable, breathable product that is light enough for clothing.



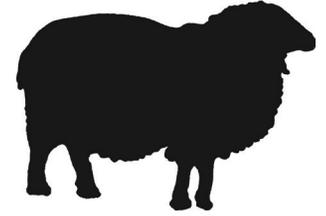
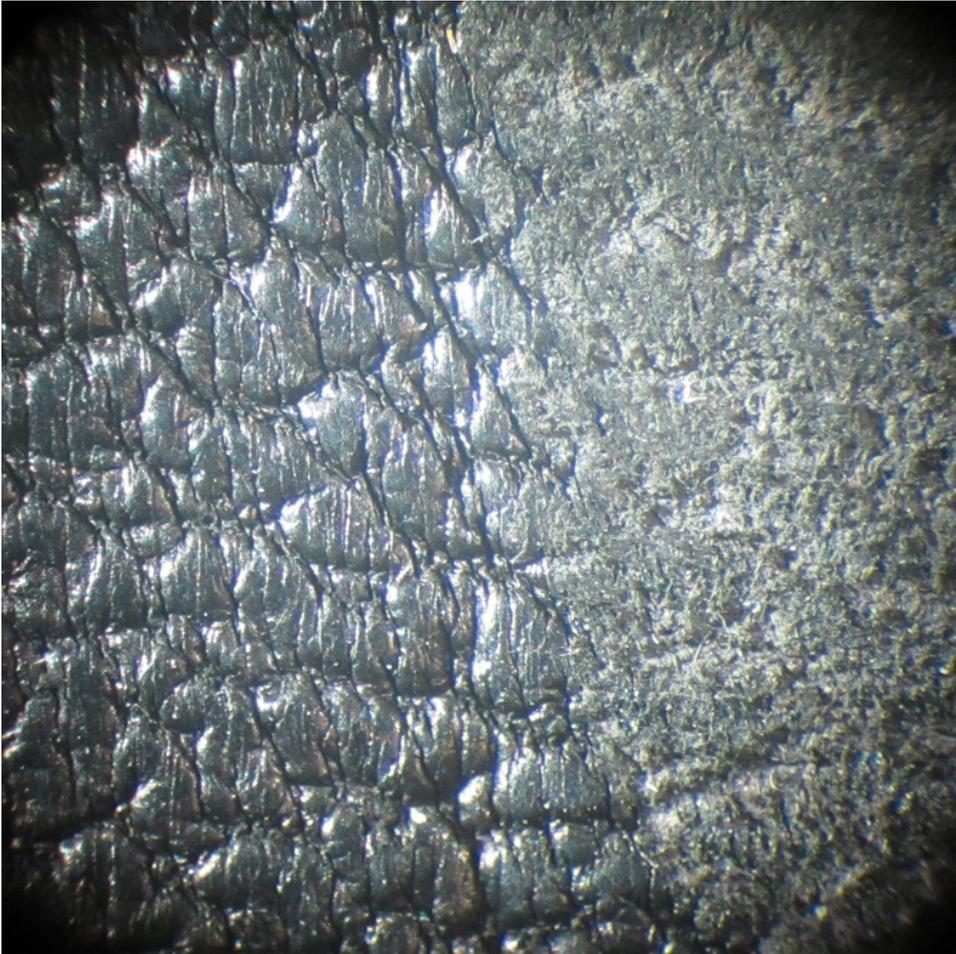
IMITATION LEATHER

Synthetic leather is flame retardant, thermoplastic, UV protected, and stain and wear resistant. It can imitate virtually any type of leather, and is usually made with a vinyl surface.



IMITATION SUEDE

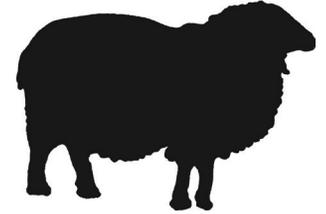
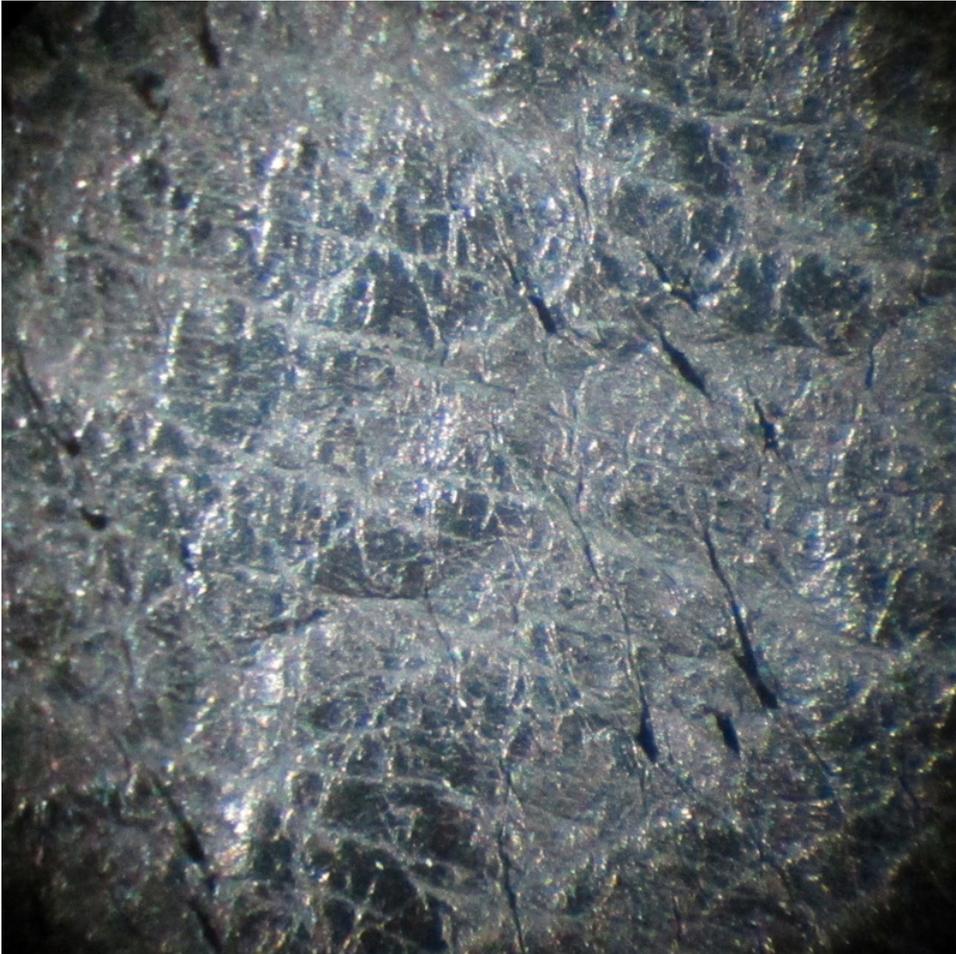
Imitation suede offers an inexpensive alternative to actual suede. As with imitation leather, it is flame retardant, thermoplastic, UV protected, and stain and wear resistant. It is usually made of a polyester/polyurethane mix. The most well-known imitation suede is Ultrasuede.



BUBBLE LAMBSKIN

Fringe adds movement and drama to sleeves and accessories, but its original purpose was purely functional: the moving strands diverted rain away from the body of the wearer. The non-fraying edges of leather are ideal for producing fringe.

*Fringe/stud sample by Adeline Franco-Paddack,
accessories design student, FIT*



VEGETABLE TANNED LEATHER

Vegetable tanning, an ancient technique, employs tannins that naturally occur in the bark and leaves of many plants. Used mostly for bookbinding, wall coverings, luggage, and furniture, vegetable tanned leathers are suitable for decorative carving or stamping. However, if it gets wet, it will shrink and become rigid.
