

Consulting News

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„For a good conversation, *pauses* are just as important as words.“

Heimito von Doderer

01 Editorial

In writing this newsletter, it has once again become clear to me how much tradition and the future collide in the fashion industry. In the past, the fashion industry was often exclusive and catered to the vast majority. Today, however, there are more and more efforts to promote inclusion and diversity. This can be seen, for example, in models of different sizes, ethnicities, ages and genders in advertising campaigns. Technology is playing an increasingly significant role. It opens new possibilities in production, design and communication. Luxury remains an essential part of the fashion industry. However, it is no longer defined only by high prices, but also by quality, sustainability, and social responsibility. Interpersonal communication remains a firm anchor. After all, what use is all this progress if we don't understand each other?

I hope you enjoy reading this issue

Yours, Monique Fischer

02 The art of verbal and nonverbal communication

Managers must constantly evolve in order to best promote the potential of their employees as well as the company for whose success they are jointly responsible. I have already emphasized in previous blog posts that this process requires a great deal of courage, because it involves the ability to question oneself and to be questioned. An important ingredient for successful leadership is communication. It is well known that we communicate not only with words, but also with our bodies. Likewise, we know that communication is not just about „sending“ messages, but also about „receiving“ them, listening properly and learning. A leader must communicate clearly at all times and provide understandable, unambiguous impulses.

[Read my new blog post](#)

03 Inclusion has arrived in the fashion industry

Designers, marketers, sales professionals - they all recognize that brands and retailers are missing out on important opportunities if they fail to make their products, spaces, and services universally accessible. Inclusion shows up in many different forms. Here are a few examples that I think stand out: Canadian Izzy Camilleri is the founder of *IZ Adaptive*, one of the world's first adaptive clothing lines. She filed a patent for her Seamless Technology, which makes pants possible without seams, so people who need wheelchairs don't get painful (and potentially life-threatening) pressure points.

Vogue Italia became the first magazine to feature a person with a disability on its cover: Paralympic athlete Veronica Yoko Plebani. The May issue of British Vogue features 1.04 m tall Irish activist Sinéad Burke. She runs her own company, *Tilting the Lens*, which creates accessible and equitable solutions through education, advocacy, and design, and works with global brands such as Gucci and Ralph Lauren.

Speech recognition and speech-to-text technologies play a key role in making physical and online retail accessible to all. Tech giants such as Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta, and Microsoft have partnered with the University of Illinois in the *Speech Accessibility Project*, which aims to make speech recognition technology more effective at understanding people whose speech patterns are different due to illness.



04 Happy Birthday: Levi's 501 celebrates 150th birthday

They've been around longer than Louis Vuitton's monogram canvas and longer than Hermès handbags. Paul O'Neill, head designer at Levi's, knows the secret of their enduring appeal: although the design has changed a little since the jeans were introduced in 1873, the silhouette is still the same: straight legs, high waist, solid fabric. Throughout the year, the brand will celebrate with consumers, employees, and communities around the world. What began in 1873 with the issued patent for copper rivets on work pants has evolved into one of the most iconic and influential garments. These jeans have transcended the boundaries of time and culture and can be found in the closets of all generations. When did you wear your first 501 with pride?

05 Do the „Mindstep“ with me

My extraordinary leadership and sales trainings are based on my great passion: the Tango Argentino. For me it means the „Mindstep“ into a successful future. The next leadership seminar will take place on 04/05 October 2023 in Cipressa (Italy).

Directly afterwards, I invite you there to the „Festivalito di Tango“. Here I share my passion and love with tango friends from all over the world. It is said that Cipressa, the enchanting village in the very west of the San Lorenzo Valley in Liguria, is one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. Here you will find not only Italian culture, beautiful views, beach, and mountains, but a very special luxury: authentic people, genuine encounters and deep connections. Even if you don't dance tango, the magical atmosphere will enchant you.

[Mindstep Seminar](#)

[Festivalito di Tango](#)



Consulting News WORLD!

Quality and craftsmanship pay off

Many luxury fashion brands have published their 2022 economic figures in recent weeks. Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Hermès, Gucci - they are among the most valuable luxury brands in the world. The State of Fashion 2023 report by McKinsey & Company and The Business of Fashion (BoF) forecasts global growth in luxury fashion of between 5 and 10 percent in 2023, compared to -2 and 3 percent for the rest of the industry. Good craftsmanship is in for a golden era.

Laureates of the Wilhelm Lorch Foundation 2023

The foundation promotes talented young people from all areas of the textile industry in education, vocational and further training, including student assistance, and supports science and research. This year, among others, Antonia Dannenberg was awarded for her bachelor thesis „Graphene in alpine winter sportswear - investigation of the thermal conductivity of a textile surface equipped with graphene“. Exciting!