7.4. Self-Reflection

When I decided to apply to this faculty, I felt somewhat disoriented. My primary goal was to improve my English and immerse myself in a country where sustainability is deeply embedded in everyday life. My ambition to work on sustainable products never hesitated. Indeed, even during my application process, when asked to propose a possible Master's thesis topic, I developed the idea of designing a wearable gadget capable of capturing CO_2—despite having no clear understanding of how to turn such a complex vision into reality. Two years later, that initial ambition materialized into something tangible: my thesis on a living textile capable of capturing CO_2 and releasing oxygen. This opportunity arose from my participation in the course Fundamentals of Biodesign, where I had the chance to meet my current thesis chair. The journey, however, has been anything but easy. Working on a research-intensive thesis like this has presented numerous challenges, pushing me to develop essential skills such as time management, determination, patience, consistency, charisma, and precision. At times, it was difficult, but each challenge strengthened my ability to adapt and persist. Some skills came more naturally than others, but I never lost sight of my goal. Thanks to the guidance and support of my chair and mentor, I was able to navigate these 20 weeks of research. Now, as I conclude this journey, I can confidently say that I have successfully developed a functional living textile prototype, demonstrating its potential applicability in sustainable material innovation.

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