

## Fit for Purpose

### Four considerations of how matter becomes material

Bessai, R.; Bendor, R.; Balkenende, A.R.

#### DOI

[10.21428/bf6fb269.6c5fe30e](https://doi.org/10.21428/bf6fb269.6c5fe30e)

#### Publication date

2023

#### Document Version

Final published version

#### Citation (APA)

Bessai, R., Bendor, R., & Balkenende, A. R. (2023). *Fit for Purpose: Four considerations of how matter becomes material*. Abstract from Ninth Workshop on Computing within Limits (Online). <https://doi.org/10.21428/bf6fb269.6c5fe30e>

#### Important note

To cite this publication, please use the final published version (if applicable). Please check the document version above.

#### Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download, forward or distribute the text or part of it, without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license such as Creative Commons.

#### Takedown policy

Please contact us and provide details if you believe this document breaches copyrights. We will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

**Computing within Limits**

# **Fit for Purpose: Four considerations of how matter becomes material**

**Riel Bessai<sup>1</sup> Roy Bendor<sup>1</sup> Ruud Balkenende<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>**Industrial Design Engineering, Delft University of Technology**

**LIMITS**

**Published on:** Jun 14, 2023

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.21428/bf6fb269.6c5fe30e>

**License:** [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License \(CC-BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

**ABSTRACT**

Materials form the basis of modern technological society. The extraction and processing of raw matter and the disposal of material things is at the heart of most of the environmental and social crises, and has important implications for the design and deployment of computation systems. In this paper, we present an analysis of the way in which materials are selected during the design process: how designers determine whether a given material is fit for purpose. While originally addressing specific functional or aesthetic purpose, with increasing urgency designers have begun to select materials that also consider a broader environmental purpose (eg. CO2 footprint) or ethical purpose (eg. Fair Trade). The analysis also unveils a missing category: the need to consider the social relations that emerge in the creation of materials across their supply chains. Fit for political purpose is thus proposed to create a bridge between the nuts-and-bolts material design of technology and the socio-political impacts of its production.