I = interviewer; P3 = participant. Refer to DDM2020 dataset documentation for more information.

1 2 3 4 5	I	okay so right I've just got a few background questions to get started just a few quick questions so could you remind me of the product that you told me about by email that you wanted to talk about
6 7 8	Р3	er so the product is I mean the main product is called a ((product name)) and it's made out of recycle PET bottles post consumer PET bottles
9	I	mhm
10 11 12 13 14	P3	er that same collection had like six different branches in different retail stores because you know ((company name)) sells like one unique design for each retail store so ((two shop names listed)) this is the US
15	I	okay
16 17	Р3	I'm not sure if you're familiar with the different retailers
18 19 20	I	some of them but probably not all of them so these are these small suitcases are they are they all for like cabin cabin
21 22 23 24	P3	er no no they're like one is called an under seater and what it is is very small case and you can put it actually under your seat in the aeroplane
25	I	yeah
26 27 28 29 30 31	P3	and then there was like carry on and we we have made two carry ons one a little oversized because in the us you sometimes get away with carrying a bigger one and one that was a little more set to you know the standards from the airline so a little smaller
32	I	okay
33	Р3	and then a medium size and then a large size
34	I	okay
35 36	Р3	for checking into cabin I mean not into the cabin you know
37 38	I	into the the hold yeah so a whole range of of suitcases
39	Р3	yeah

40 41	I	okay and was this an in house idea where did the idea come from to do this recycled material
42 43 44 45 46	Р3	so the idea came from I guess well first of all I always was a little er let's say hurt by the fact that I was a product designer because I saw okay why do we need more products in the world really haha
47	I	yeah haha
48 49 50 51 52 53	P3	and I'm doing this so you know it was always like a contradiction with my morals and my passion of oh design beautiful objects and so I always was like okay can we do something different can we change you know our production practices and then er my boss erm
54 55 56 57 58		she was also very or she is very into sustainability and doing something better as well so I guess you know with the both of us we started pushing for okay let's see what we can do in the future for you know for luggage really
59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71		and so she started like connecting with people and she went first to conference in amsterdam I believe amsterdam it's called textile exchange and then she met like few er suppliers and different people talking about you know RPET so she started digging into the topic and then you know I was working with her supporting you know the initiative and then we get to meet the suppliers went to the factory you know how they recollected the bottles and all of this and we kept pushing pushing to see for the next collection we could use this material instead of the regular polyester
72	I	yeah
73 74 75	Р3	so you know over the time we decided to keep going going of course the prices were a little higher as suspected always
76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85		so we had to really like push hard like no this is a future like you have to start doing something about sustainability you have to commit to the environment you have to change your practices and then eventually you know after a lot of like struggle like we made the collection we made a very different as well I don't know I mean I'm a luggage head so I know exactly how the lines should be but we made the frame a little different in the back there is that curvature instead of being straight so that was completely

87 88		different and we tried to make it just look new let's say
89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103		and so when we presented the product to the company we also did like a presentation on sustainability to make sure that it wouldn't just fall apart because of prices you know everyone goes oh no I'm losing one point of my margin so I can't and it's like okay but so anyway that was the process and eventually when we presented it I think the company was very excited because they saw the value let's say and we ran with the luck that the CEO at the time also was like yeah this is great we have to push for new style sustainability we need to commit to you know reduce our carbon footprint and so he's supported the initiative let's say and so he hire a sustainability director
104	I	oh okay
105 106 107 108	P3	which which was let's say I would say not so much the luggage itself was a success I think it was more the fact that the company finally started thinking
109	I	yeah
110 111 112	Р3	let's move towards something more sustainable and not just luggage luggage and so I think sorry
113 114 115	I	sorry erm how did you get the the time to do this development before it was something that the company wanted to do
116 117	Р3	herrr so I mean and that's a problem right so I don't know are you a product designer as well
118 119 120	I	no I have studied design a long time ago but like you I had the same feelings about not wanting to put stuff into the world haha
121	Р3	haha
122 123	I	so no I worked more on supply chain sustainability
124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132	P3	yeah so of course because they're like such a big company they I I mean honestly I worked for other companies that have the same philosophy on this is great let's do it now on but I need like three more weeks no you don't have three weeks go for it so I guess from the moment where my boss went to the conference in the first place to having the collection like presented and then ready to go maybe it took like a year

133	I	aha okay
134 135 136 137 138 139	Р3	so like talking to the suppliers making sure that they you know the people from the logistics agree with us to use certain suppliers because it's such a big company that everything is so okay design here is logistics here is you know sourcing
140	I	yeah
141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148	P3	so everything is very and you cannot step into the toes of anyone so it takes longer of course so it was trying to get everyone in the same boat what took the longest let's say and so I think it was like a year for the point where we presented the project and it was ready to go into you know manufacturing let's say and then you know year and a half later it was in the market perhaps and
149 150	I	okay and what was your personally what was your role in the design of this product
151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166	P3	so erm a lot of it was I guess project management like trying to keep the project in on track you know from a design perspective production so I had to communicate with the china team to make sure they were you know keeping everything on track meanwhile I was also trying to get as much information on circular economy as well as sustainability materials the benefits so we could continue spreading like the language let's say to the company and to the salespeople because they had to present the products to you know different retailers so we wanted to make sure they they had the language to fix you know when they were presenting the project and then but I guess the key role was from a design perspective making sure that the design was correct the construction was correct as I mentioned it was a new frame
168	I	mhm
169 170 171	Р3	so that also took a lot of work so I had to make sure that all the samples development samples were on track
172 173 174 175		and then the materials was another challenge er because fabrics have different widths so depending on how many threads you include I mean again I don't know how much you know of this
176 177 178 179		but you know depending on that it also depends on the quality so we wanted to make sure that it wouldn't fail as from quality because then we will have failed to introduce a sustaina well

180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189		sustainable product and or not a sustainable product but you know one that is moving towards a more environmental friendly product so I guess those were my main contributions like trying to make sure that the design is correct that everything is to a quality standard working with the quality team and supporting my boss you know because of course there is a lot of fights to to confront so I'm trying to keep her no this is the right thing don't give up keep keep so I was a cheerleader for my boss as well haha
191 192	I	okay and how many other people were involved in the actual design work
193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200	P3	so in the design work erm so I guess I mean so it the so it was the vice president of design director then you know I'm just a senior designer so the two above me they were always you know working with me but I mean to be honest the design part of it I was pretty much in charge of it like they will be giving me feedback but it was me pushing for design usually
201 202 203 204 205 206		and and we used to have a er prototyping er shop in the same building so I used to er work closely with them let's say to do prototypes to work on the frame to make sure that the construction was correct the panels like that takes a lot of time let's say
207 208 209		cos each panel even though you look at luggage and probably you see they all look the same they are not hahaha
210 211 212 213 214		so so I mean I guess that that includes at least I don't know maybe about eight people working with me on helping me develop the product and giving feedback or you know supporting me in prototyping or that kind of stuff
215 216	I	and can you tell me about some of the things that you needed to make design decisions about
217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227	P3	erm so it goes from defining again the width of the fabric to designing the zipper colour I mean its every detail really that I have to consider the wheels as well as the handles is very important and in this specific project I would say that the the biggest challenge was in the carry on we decided to do this handle in order to maximise the height of the case erm that it went down instead of being just cut and sew and also because we added the er pocket at the top of the case which is completely unusual for luggage so

228 229		we had to work on that a lot and that was a big challenge I think because at the end
230 231 232 233 234 235		er and this is the problem right so we were not hundred percent sure but that deadline is coming and they want to just do it and it was like okay so we just did it but you know as from a design perspective it was like oh this might go wrong and I don't have the power to say stop
236 237 238 239 240		so it just went to the market and then actually the handle got fixed in older collections later on but you know it was like this collection had to go to the market for us to realise no I mean you know we need to change it
241 242 243	I	yeah and and which design decision do you think was most important in terms of sustainability for this product
244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262	P3	ah so the most important was pushing for transparency in the supply chain really because without that yeah you know we could say oh it's recycled PET yes but if you track back where is it coming from and maybe there are some lack of transparency of who we get it from and how they get it from and you know then it could go a big problem right because you're making a big statement about oh we're we we're using recycled pet from post consumer and then if because it's such a big company if they discover is a lie and you're in big trouble so I think the biggest or the most important part was making sure that the suppliers were honest in where they were getting their bottles and how were they processing and from this supplier to go to the you know the weaving of the fabric to make sure that there was a track of okay this is this this is this and so we could go back
263	I	yes
264 265 266	P3	and trace it to to yes these are post consumer pet bottles so I think that was the most important ((inaudible)) thing
267 268	I	and how did you go about choosing between suppliers for this material
269 270 271 272 273 274 275	Р3	so that was again I think that was one of the biggest challenges when picking a new material because I I I don't know I'm sorry to say this but in china it's like okay I want to work with this person so I'm going to give you this much money so you work with me and then this other person is getting paid because he convinced us to

276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283		work with them so there is a lot of like and that's the normal business right like you paid this one and then you get the contract so because of that dynamic it was very difficult to break those connections because of course they were like no no no we want to work with this supplier and then I don't know like I lost track of what I was saying what was the question haha
284 285 286 287	I	I was just wondering how you chose the suppliers for the material you mentioned the trade fair did the connections come from the trade fair originally
288 289	Р3	yes yes so it was my boss meeting some people and then you know talking to them
290	I	yeah
291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301	P3	and actually there was some issues there too but you know at the end like the original person she spoke to the company then picked them but we still work with one person he recommended and at the end he end up losing the opportunity but because of prices then you know ((company name)) went with this supplier and I mean it was still transparent but this was a weaver person you know so there is the one that recollects the the bottles which is very important because it's the raw material
302	I	yeah
303 304 305 306	Р3	and then from that they make the thread which is sent to the person that is the weaver so the most important let's say was the where we get the
307		bottles so that one it stayed true and it was based on the trade show my boss had gone
307 308 309	I	bottles so that one it stayed true and it was
308	I P3	bottles so that one it stayed true and it was based on the trade show my boss had gone yep and do they they all happen to be in china
308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316		bottles so that one it stayed true and it was based on the trade show my boss had gone yep and do they they all happen to be in china all these supply chain actors yes so because the production in china yeah I mean now it might have changed to other countries haha but back then it was all in china so it was much easier to do it in china although we had spoke to I think it was some people from sweden actually but again they were a little higher prices so of course they always want the best

323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331		so I guess the reason why we went for the RPET was because that technology had started because of course like and even though it had started like prices were a little higher so we had to work a lot like on okay we're doing ((inaudible)) on the parts so we can afford the material for the fabric and I think because you know luggage is made out of I mean there's two types of course the plastic and then the soft with the fabric
332	I	yep
333 334 335 336	Р3	so because fabric is such an important aspect of the luggage than we thought okay there is this material already getting traction what about we do this first
337	I	uhu
338 339	Р3	of course we we talk about like recycled erm plastics for handles and wheels
340	I	yeah
341 342 343 344 345	P3	but again there is some big challenges with the quality and you know so back then again there was not as advanced you know quality standards for recycle PP or recycle you know other plastics I'm saying that we use for the components
346	I	yep
347 348	Р3	so that's why we went for the fabric first and also because the fabric is not recyclable haha
349 350 351		so let's say that's a big disappointment for me to say oh yeah I work on this but it's not really sustainable because at the end
352	I	yeah
353 354 355 356 357 358	P3	I did this much I mean yeah okay we use recycled PET bottles but guess what all these luggage go to the landfill anyway because there is not a circular you know system where we're gonna take back these bags and the fabric can be recycled it really cannot at the moment
359 360	I	and you keep saying back then what year was it that you worked on this project
361	Р3	it was two thousand sixteen
362 363	I	okay so not too long ago but you think things have moved on since
364 365 366	P3	um I think so let's say not so much that it's going to already be recyclable but for example terracycle is has moved a lot into how to recycle

367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375		different types of material and there are some you know new companies thinking of chemical recycling where they will pretty much disintegrate the materials to the chemical level you know so a lot of the fabric recycling let's say innovations will come from them but I don't think we're there yet and so that's why I'm saying back then because I'm hoping in the future it will
376 377 378 379 380	I	okay and er you've talked about challenges with this decision I'm interested to to hear about responsibility for the decision making who who took the responsibility for the design decisions and the material decisions in this project
381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396	P3	er so the material my boss was really in charge of the development of the material again I was just in the back like supporting or following I mean she was the she was the director so she had a thousand other projects so let's say I was in the background holding things and be like hey this came up can you you know talk to this person or push and she had more power in the company as well so when it came to materials she was really the one pushing really for the materials to actually be successful in this collection and then the vp of design was also supporting us in you know speaking to the executives and sales people again because everything is in layers in that corporation and then when it came to design I think pretty much it was my responsibility
397	I	mhm
398 399	Р3	to make sure that everything was on track and looking good I guess okay
400 401 402	I	and you said at the very beginning about erm a bit about your own values how do you think your own values come into your design work
403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412	P3	mmm okay so when it comes to I guess working in a project like my values played in the sense that I'm hundred percent responsible for things to you know happen as far as you know being honest about everything not hide things so for example if when they handle I raised my doubts I couldn't just go oh no I really want this collection to happen I actually was always very transparent in things so I think that's where my values come and then again er coming back to sustainability even though I was pushing for a more
414		environmental friendly material I still said you

415 416 417		know this is not real anyway it's a step forward but we're lying at the end this is not the solution so let's say I'm too honest haha
418	I	haha
419 420 421 422	P3	so I'm always very honest like I usually don't lie about things that I really believe in and I honestly think that's why my boss both of them really liked me haha
423 424		they were like okay we know but let's keep going haha
425	I	yes to do what you can
426 427 428		and so who do you think's responsible for the sustainability the true sustainability of the design
429 430 431 432 433 434	P3	so here's where it gets very complicated because you know I've been in the circular economy programme with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and I've been in other sustainable conferences and they'll go oh yeah we we need to educate the designers to make the right decision and do
435 436 437 438		well can I speak because I don't have power when it comes to making a final decision again if ((company name)) thought well we can afford these RPET materials if you want to do
439 440 441		but guess what it's not going to happen and they are going to say so put this other material that we can afford
442 443 444		yeah and what do you do I mean it's not like it's your company and you're just getting paid to do as you're told at the end of the game
445	I	yeah
446 447	Р3	so you can push for things but at the end of the game
448 449		you don't have power really and you can bring ideas which we did constantly
450	I	yeah
451 452 453 454 455 456 457	P3	but from those ideas not all of them are you know supported by the you know executives or the shareholders because at the end they want to make money so I think that the decision really comes from the head of the company so if the company doesn't have sustainability in their projections or values it's not going to happen even if you

458 459		<pre>push for it because I've been they go er this is a penny more</pre>
460	I	yeah
461 462 463	Р3	haha so no thank you we want that penny in our pockets cos you're talking million you know a lot of pennies haha so that at the end of the day
464 465 466	I	so why do you think this idea in particular which had this element of sustainability was taken up by the senior management compared to others
467 468 469 470 471 472	P3	I think because we were able to speak a little bit of their language so let's say that's one thing I could say from a design point of view the more designers can speak to sales vocabulary or business vocabulary the more they will actually understand what you're saying
473	I	yeah
474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482	P3	so we were able to sell the idea from a business perspective so we said look you don't get on board of sustainability which is a must in the future for every company you do it now and you get ahead you know or you're behind and you know it's all about competition so I think they heard that because they knew that sustainability wasn't just a talk and it was actually becoming more of a must must happen
483 484 485 486 487		and so I think that was the success of the collection as well as it was insightful it was completely new colours shapes you know from a design perspective also it was very like different to an extent
488 489	I	okay and does the company have a separate CSR team or sustainability team as well
490 491	Р3	so after that collection they hire the director of sustainability so it's one person haha
492	I	okay
493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503	P3	er it was one person but it was a big win I think a big win and I mean she's still there so I know she's still trying really hard to keep the ball going so I think it was a big accompli I would say that's the biggest accomplishment of that collection getting a position where it's just thinking okay how can we reduce the carbon footprint from every you know perspective of the company not only from the product but transportation how much we using electricity recycling in the building you know because that's

504 505		the truth it's not just the product it's the whole system
506 507 508 509 510		so I think that was the big win but again it was one person and then ((company name)) works in regions so us gets the director but then europe then gained another person that was in charge of that sustainability
511	I	okay so they have one
512 513 514 515	Р3	and then yeah in each region and then I don't know at this point I think it's still the same and because of covid nineteen I wouldn't be surprised if a lot of people are gone haha
516	I	yeah
517 518		yeah no it'll be interesting to see what happens to sustainability with this virus situation
519	Р3	yes
520 521 522 523 524	I	and so I just want to ask a couple of more general questions building on that particular erm project do you think the way that you made decisions design decisions in this project was typical or was it unusual
525	Р3	what do you mean design decisions
526 527 528 529 530 531	I	so you talked about the I mean the main decision you talked about was the materials erm but you also talked about the form to some extent did you follow this sort of same usual kind of erm processes and procedures in this project compared to other design projects
532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541	P3	no I guess we also tried to look into like okay what language could be incorporated in the design that speaks to environment or a little bit more of biomimicry for example so the wheel we call it ((inaudible)) wheel I think which is like a cactus that I don't know survives in that the desert because of the shape I don't know I don't remember what the story was about but it was like okay what can we do to incorporate a more cohesive language that talks environment
542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549		so maybe that was erm different approach to design the process I mean again the materials was the biggest challenge so but the process of the product was very like as usual so start thinking very big narrowed down let's make this case and then the frame was part of okay can we come up with a frame that uses less materials that perhaps is stronger but it doesn't have I mean

550 551 552		this is embarrassing but you know luggage if you take out the lining you will see how I don't know it's like kindergarden construction
553	I	haha
554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570	P3	haha so that's where we were like oh my god like it looks beautiful but once you go in there they have put glue like really what industry uses just glue like can we make it beautiful from the outside in the inside so I guess that was a different approach to the design as well like can we make it beautiful from every point of view and fix this amount of extra materials that we're putting maybe we use two screws instead of five I don't know so I guess that was the beginning of er development thinking in the company as well and other designers and again this collection didn't accomplish everything it just because again I think it's very difficult to switch er companies that has been in the linear economy for so long to start thinking oh no let's think a little more circular haha
571 572 573		so it's little by little so I guess the the approach was let's make one win and continue the development for future er collections
574 575 576 577 578	I	yeah so it sounds like you were also thinking about improving the quality and maybe that would er just thinking maybe that would make people want to treasure something more or keep it longer perhaps that's another sustainability aspect
579 580 581	P3	yeah so that was another of the you know implementations so for example I don't know if you know tim brown he's like the IDEO designer
582	I	yeah
583 584 585 586 587	Р3	and his fix about like how to design for you know long lasting so there are like six principles that you know they talk about in design and one of them is you know create attachment erm to your products
588	I	yes yes
589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596	P3	and I guess I'm just thinking yeah when when I did this collection I I said well luggage is very intimate like you're taking your most valuable things inside this piece of luggage and then you're going to a unknown place and you open the luggage it's like very intimate piece of I don't know equipment let's say so like that was another thing we started talking like can we change the

597 598		perspective whath luggage is it's almost like an extension of home away from home
599	I	yeah
600 601 602	Р3	and it's a box of memories right so creating a nostalgia to the product instead of just luggage so
603 604 605 606	I	yes I suppose that's hard to for the company to to want to go down that route because they would want people to buy more rather than keeping one thing
607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627	P3	yes haha it's always a challenge but at the end of the game so like even though they want people to buy more quality and I guess that was one of my values as well I wanted quality to never get jeopardised so I was always pushing like no you talk about quality in your brand then maintain it like don't lose it so I was always I don't know like following up on testing ((inaudible)) things even in the website sometimes I will see like someone complaining about I mean one time someone complained about a handle breaking and I went oh my god what's going on no one had seen it in the company and it was like I mean this is why this company is going to fall apart like how can you not see the comment and act immediately so I guess quality was always one of my values let's say like so I don't know I would push for the quality because if you don't provide a good product that the consumer trust they're never going to come back and make the same brand so at the end I always push for that to be maintained
628 629 630 631 632	I	okay and then erm another more general question do you think that the lines of responsibility that you talked about in this erm project were typical for other projects in terms of who who takes responsibility
633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641	P3	ah now I guess I guess that was a big problem actually because some of my so I had previously worked with my boss in another luggage company and then she moved to ((company name)) and we started working again together so when she got here it was like a shock for her because in other companies they will have more power over sourcing whereas ((company name)) was very against very structured
642	I	yes
643 644	Р3	because it's such a big corporation so for you to go into sourcing it was a big problem like they

645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652		didn't like it because you know we were pushing for things that they were not comfortable with so I think that was the most unusual part where you know we get really involved into who is the supplier we want to work with the supplier where previously it was someone else's decision to do and we just follow whatever we were told use this supplier okay we use that supplier
653	I	yeah
654 655	Р3	so I guess that was the biggest rupture of the norm
656 657 658	I	yep okay that's interesting that you managed to to incorporate that role as well in to to the design team
659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666	Р3	I mean a lot of problems haha making a lot of enemies in the company for a little bit haha but you know when things started going better after the collection happened and yeah things started getting a little more comfortable but for a little bit it was again pushing for sustainability when it's not the norm is really difficult
667	I	yeah
668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675	P3	like you you have to risk many things and many headaches haha many pains but at the end I think if you do it and it works out correctly anyway things get on board so you know after that the sourcing team also saw the value of yeah we need to change what we're doing and try to you know incorporate better materials and push for better you know suppliers
676	I	yeah
677 678	Р3	so they get on board at the end but it was I guess that was a disruption haha
679 680	I	yeah it's it's really interesting to hear how how you managed to do this and
681	Р3	haha
682 683 684 685	I	((inaudible)) to influencing people erm so those are all the questions I had was there anything else you'd like to share that you thought I might have asked about or anything else that's relevant
686 687 688 689	P3	erm no I guess the most important thing from a designer perspective because what I tell you we don't have power really when it comes down to making a final decision

690	I	уер
691	Р3	is you have to have the passion for it
692	I	уер
693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705	P3	and be able to withstand all these complications because again it was not easy to have to argue with all those people in the company you know and then go home and feel awful haha the next day like oh my god what what are we doing you know because again you're disrupting the peace in the company and putting everything upside down for a little while until things you know align but then I don't know it goes down to your passion I think that you really want to do something different break you know the norm and be willing to withstand you know whatever comes after breaking the the normal procedures
706 707 708 709	I	and I suppose there were erm two of you you and your manager which probably made it a bit easier maybe it wouldn't have been possible with just one of you pushing I'm not sure
710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719	P3	yes that's completely true and also so she was a director position and the vice president of design he also you know kind of got on board and supported us as well so he had even more power but honestly like he ended being hated by so many haha after this and that's why I told you like one of my roles was being a cheerleader haha like it's okay like I had to literally give therapy to them in many circumstances like let's go for a lunch and
720	I	yeah
721 722 723	Р3	you know breathe and because it's difficult yeah but yeah it's important to have others in the company that also help you one way or another
724 725 726	I	yeah wow well thank you so much for sharing this story with me it's definitely very interesting for my research
727	/end/	