

Nila Sequeira

Designer and pattern cutter · Anais, Porto

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I run a ten-piece womenswear label out of one building in Bonfim. I buy undyed and deadstock cloth from mills I have stood in, dye what needs colour myself, and publish the whole record of every garment. Before this I cut patterns for other people for nine years.

The studio

2016 – Present

Founder and designer

Anais · Porto

Founded the label to answer one question about my own coat: where did the cloth come from. Ten pieces a season, a permanent line, four people making, twenty-two stockists in nine countries.

2012 – 2016

Head of patterns

Casa Teles · Guimarães

Ran the pattern room for a mid-size womenswear manufacturer. Learned exactly how much of a garment's cost is decided before anybody cuts anything.

2009 – 2012

Pattern cutter

Studio Verner · Antwerp

Three years cutting toiles for other designers, which is the best education there is and the worst paid.

Collections and shows

2026

Collection nine, Spring / Summer 26

Portugal Fashion, Porto

Shown on a rail rather than a runway, which cost less and sold more.

2025

Undyed — nine years of a Porto atelier

MUDE, Lisbon

A retrospective of the permanent line, hung with the mill invoices for every cloth.

- 2024

Deadstock: eleven rolls

Salone Sostenibile, Milan

Every piece cut from a single cancelled 2019 mill order, priced with the arithmetic shown on the wall.
- 2024

The material ledger

Copenhagen Fashion Summit

A talk and a printed ledger, given away, on what traceability actually costs a small label.

Awards and certification

- 2025

Winner, small-scale manufacture

Portuguese Textile Prize
- 2023

GOTS certified supply chain

Global Organic Textile Standard
- 2023

Mulesing-free certification

Responsible Wool Standard
- 2022

Shortlist, sustainable design

Iberian Design Awards

Training

- 2007 - 2009

MA Fashion, cutting and construction

Royal Academy of Fine Arts · Antwerp

Two years and eleven toiles of a coat that never worked. I use the block from it to this day.
- 2003 - 2007

BA Textile Design

Faculdade de Belas Artes · Porto

Weaving and dyeing before pattern cutting, which is why the label starts at the cloth.

What I actually do

Pattern cutting and grading	●●●●●	Flat and bias construction	●●●●●
Natural indigo dyeing	●●●●○	Deadstock sourcing	●●●●○
Mill and knitter relationships	●●●●●	Wholesale and range planning	●●●●○

Languages

Portuguese	Native	English	Fluent
Dutch	Working	French	Enough for a mill visit