



ANTHONY VRAHIMIS
Design Consultancy

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One of Britain's top handbag designers, Holloway man Anthony Vrahimis, spoke about the secrets of the trade at the packed Fashion Expo at Islington Business Design Centre this week. Born and bred in the borough, former Tollington schoolboy Anthony still lives and works in Tollington, where his business is based. More than 500 people have gone through his apprenticeship scheme, and many have since gone on to work for top designers such as Nicole Fahri and Alexander McQueen.

Along with designing for big organisations, Anthony also runs popular handbag making courses at his studios. "A good looking handbag is an important accessory," he said. "We offer the opportunity for women to craft their own bags, based on their own designs."

The daytime, evening and weekend courses cost from £350, depending on the size and quality of the materials. The course will teach you all you need to know in order to create a luxury leather handbag, taking in design and 3D development, pattern cutting, sewing, handles, closures, framing and construction.

"At the end you get your own excellent custom made individual handbag, which is unlike anyone else's," said Anthony.

He said he owes his success to the early encouragement of his mother, Christina, and late father, Costas. "They were Greek-Cypriot immigrants who worked in the clothing trade," he added. "My mum taught me how to use a sewing machine when I was nine. And my dad taught me how to design and cut."