



THE DENIM LEGACY

Bertha Ann Jenkins and Catherine Black
Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, Fl 32306

The goal of this project was to design a fun wearable coat ensemble utilizing recycled denim jeans and overalls. Recycling is cost effective designing that allows students to use resources readily at hand. The recycled denim garments used in the new design were worn by family members over the past 13 years.

Inspiration came from two sources. The first source was a class project focusing on the use of surface embellishment as a solution to a design problem. Recycling commonly found objects in American Material Culture served as a second source of inspiration.

The denim garments were first disassembled, then rearranged in various layouts until the desired look of the fabric was achieved. The individual pieces were then sewn together to create the new fabric. The coat pieces were laid out to obtain the desired effect and then cut out. To add textural effect, plaiding, quilting, and braiding were added through out the construction phase. To complete the coat, a flannel lining was inserted. The pants were constructed in a similar manner.

The coat and pant ensemble is constructed of 100% cotton denim, embellished with deer suede, lined with 100% polyester fleece. Drop shoulders and surface design dominate the rectangular silhouette of this coat. Areas of the coat embellished include plaiding of the collar and yoke back, braiding on the sleeve, and quilting on the undercollar.