

Near Zero Waste

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Various ways to implement sustainability into fashion design were examined in a class on recycled clothing this past semester. The idea of trying to reduce waste from leftover fabric after cutting out the pattern inspired this jacket. The amount of fabric that is usually leftover from the pattern cutting process is reduced or eliminated by using the zero-waste design approach. When one realizes that in order to meet this goal the entire design process must be drastically different, it soon becomes apparent that this is a full change in paradigm. When designing with this effort in mind, one has to look closely at the pattern and the pattern layout. The object is to have the pattern pieces interlock to reduce waste.

Process: Designing a garment, while taking into consideration that the pattern needs to cover the majority of the fabric surface, is what makes a design look unique. As a freshman fashion major in college, I learned how to take a fashion inspiration and create a unique look. Now, as an aspiring designer, I can construct a three-dimensional garment from a two-dimensional drawing and develop a pattern to interpret this idea. The fabric was a sample that was donated from a mill that produces recycled textiles. After a sketch was generated, the actual fabric, a cotton blend, was draped and pinned to the form to create the silhouette of the jacket. Next, the basic jacket shape was patterned and cut; the leftover fabric from under the sleeve was used to drape the collar. The reverse of the fabric was used to construct the under collar and the cuff of the jacket to add contrast and interest to the garment. Lastly, the belt was flat patterned from the leftover material along the selvage edge.



Techniques: Draping was the primary method employed for designing the jacket. Draping worked best to utilize the full yardage of the simple piece of fabric. The pattern pieces were then drafted and fit onto the yardage to leave the least waste. The overcast stitch was used to construct the jacket as well as an embellishment along the outer edge of the center front, hem, and collar. Applying interlining between the layers of the collar produced a soft roll.

This garment is sustainable, not only because it was constructed from recycled fabric, but also because the zero-waste pattern design was used. Zero-waste is a way of saving fabric cost and eliminating fabric waste.

