

Wedded Window to the Soul

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Purpose

The formality of the architecture of cathedrals blended with the transparency and brokenness of crystal paned glass windows spoke to me and inspired my desire to reinterpret the dichotomous form and structure into a forward and daring bridal ensemble. Thus, blending Crystal Cathedral windows with wedded bliss, *Wedded Window to the Soul* was birthed. My inspiration played off of the selection of beautiful re-embroidered lace, satin bound boning and sheer organza,



selected from a candle colored palette. The picturesque, delicate design components present an intriguing view of a bride, in all sense and sensuality, both formal and fashion forward.

Process

After perusing images of cathedrals and sourcing appropriate and inspiring fabrics and trims, conceptual sketches were created. A fitted, flounced two-piece bridal ensemble was selected for creation which juxtaposed modesty with sensuality in a lovely sheer blend of satin and lace. The design was created using flat pattern and draping techniques to create a button-back, lace embellished bustier and layered organza skirt.

Techniques

The bustier was designed to drop just below the natural waist level, dropping over the satin fitted waistline of the tiered organza skirt. The organza layer was cut and sewn with seam allowances to the outside. The seams were then pressed and a bias cut band of ivory satin was used to finish each

seam line and conceal a stretch of boning. The bodice lace appliques were pieced from re-embroidered Alonson lace, and were carefully placed for overall design aesthetic and modesty. Hand stitching was used to carefully set edges of the lace appliques and trim in place on the



bodice layer. A minimal bra cup was used to set into the bustline to create an opaque covering, and then detailed with lace to conceal the layer. Bustier edges are finished with a satin bias binding.

The skirt silhouette mimics the cathedral train, but in abbreviated format, and finishes with a slight back bustle effect. A satin waist yoke was used to support the asymmetric satin trimmed organza skirt layers. The organza skirting was created using draping techniques. A layering of right-angled panels of organza was used to create the skirting to sew into the satin waist yoke. The bottom edge of each panel was finished with a two inch wide satin ribbon, measured up from the raw selvage edge of the organza. The satin ribbon was fused to the organza square cornered panels to finish off the bi-level, layered skirt. A minimal lining layer was used under the organza tiers for modesty.

Materials

The two-piece ensemble used re-embroidered Alonson lace, polyester organza, satin, lining, two-inch wide satin ribbon, satin buttons, hook and eye strip closure, invisible zipper, and boning.