

Art Deco Delight

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The purpose of this design was to 1. Reflect the inspiration of the Chrysler Building in New York City, 2. Use color blocking and 3. Develop a youthful dress.

The Chrysler Building was analyzed for elements to be incorporated into the design. The distinctive crown of the building had many strong visual elements that could be translated into a garment. The notable elements were arches that repeated in diminishing sizes, the triangular windows inset into the arches, and the reflective surfaces. These were the selected elements.

The inspiration manifests through building elements duplicated in the dress. The arches from the crown were repeated, in angles, throughout the dress's surface design, collar and neckline. The building's metallic sheen was echoed in the copper tubing applied between color sections on the dress, introducing a copper loop accent at the bottom of most dress arches. The light reflection from the metallic architectural elements and nighttime illumination was emulated in the glitter covering the fabrics. The copper tubes were attached by using a zigzag stitch, reminiscent of the triangles on the building's arches. The colors of orchid and berry were used in alternating shaped sections. These colors may be visible at daybreak or sunset in the sky above the building.

The design asymmetry was created by angled color block sections, which cover the surface of the dress. The off center, angled neckline asymmetry created by the color the neckline was framed by a collar on the other. The dress but flared below the waist to length and the playful skirt garment with youthful appeal. the shoulder/ cap sleeves and

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with its wavy pattern hid the seams better than would have the berry fabric with its lengthwise stripes. This met the goal that these sections not look significantly different from the other sections. From that point the colors were alternated in both directions. The sections had been established and designed prior to assigning colors. The section colors matched at the shoulder and cap sleeve. To keep the colors and the sections organized for cutting out the fabric, they were assigned a label, F (front) or B (back) and number starting from the shoulder. The pieces were then labeled with an appropriate color marker so that the correct color of fabric would be used.

The dress was constructed by sewing the sections of the halves (front and back) together first. Yards of the copper bias strips cut from was pinned over the seams machine stitched in place thread, using a large and distance this stitching gave appearance. The dress had back. The zipper was added prior to adding the lower lower sections had no planned in the design stage. sewn together matching seams. Pressing seams the multiple layers found at lining of soft jersey is This reduced the skin glitter fabrics. The front of have less flare than the section seams and trim originally designed. Neck and armholes are faced.



tubing were sewn from yardage. The cooper tubing of the sections, adding a arches. The tubing was with copper metallic wide zigzag stitch. From a the tubing a braid-like an invisible zipper at center to the upper back sections sections of the back. These center back seam. This was The front and back were section seams at the side open was a challenge with intersections. The full hemmed to the garment. contact with the “scratchy” the garment seemed to back, however the multiple flattened the flare that was

The fashion fabrics were knit polyester. Orchid has a wave glitter pattern and the berry has multi-color stripe plus glitter pattern. The trim, woven metallic fabric (self-made tubing), contains Mylar.

Bust-32”, Waist -29” Dress completed May 2013.