Laser Sharp

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My interest in architecture began to develop during my semester abroad in Rome, Italy. The Roman architecture, so dense with mystery, never ceased to stimulate wonder about the ancient design processes. I often found myself wondering how these renowned buildings have withstood the history of their existence. The appreciation I developed for European history and art, stimulated my interest in architecture, textiles and art and for exploring the possibilities technology implementation could offer. Thinking about how much more efficient the Romans would have been if they had access to the technology we have today made me curious about the levels to which I could improve my pre-existing design process.

My goal for "Laser Sharp" was to try innovative technical methods that could enhance my design process. By applying technology, I was able to increase my efficiency and cut down on the level of fallout in patternmaking. After drafting the dress pattern by hand, I scanned the individual pieces into Illustrator so that I could create a digital copy of each piece (Figure 1). With this digital copy, I was able to develop various patterns with the use of vector art and to eliminate cutting errors that may have previously existed when cutting by hand. When developing these digital files, I created an Illustrator workspace that was 48" x 28" and simulated my fabric and the pattern's cut-able area. I used three pieces of white vinyl and strategically placed the eleven bodice and skirt pieces to produce the highest efficiency possible. Each pattern piece contained 5/8" seam allowances and bridges that connected every circular cut out; this allowed the individual piece to stay united.

The circular design consists of the layering of multiple circles, all connected by their center point. During this process, I had to be mindful of details, like the seam allowance and ease, when strategically placing the circle clusters throughout the princess line bodice and full circle skirt (Figure 2). This process required me to learn the methods of multiple design programs and provided the opportunity to explore obtainable possibilities by implementing technology.
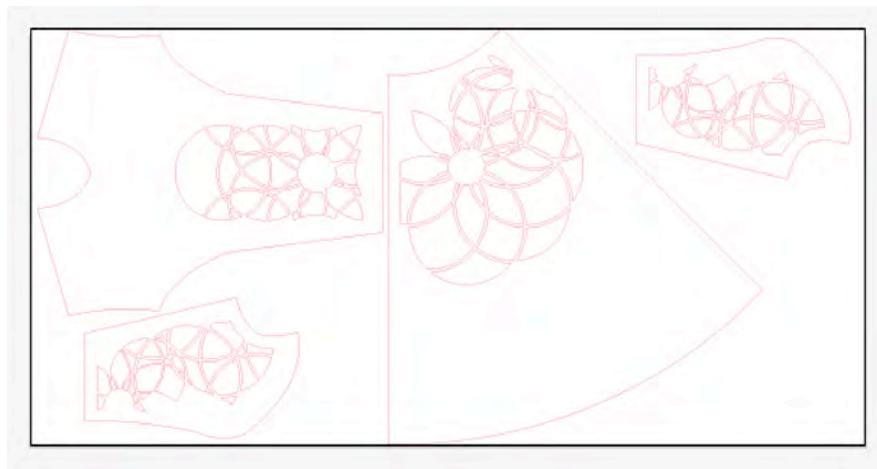
Figure 1. Front Pattern and skirt piece of the Laser Sharp dress
Figure 2. Front view of the Laser Sharp dress