

Gleaming Gills

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The purpose of this garment was to create an edgy formal wear gown that is inspired by the off-kilter fashion style of Avant Garde that captures the innovation of new concepts and techniques that can be described as bulging shoulders, accentuated waistlines, three dimensional figures protruding from the garment and many other techniques that push the boundaries of every day attire. While many aspects of the Avant Garde style are unrealistic and uncommon in evening gowns, I have taken elements such as objects protruding from the garments and compressed them into subtle but exquisite details making this garment easily wearable and mainstream.

Since the two main fabric choices of sequin and brocade are not often used together, it was my intention to mix them and create a hard and soft contrast between the two. The purpose of this garment was to also expand my knowledge of working with several fabrics that are unfamiliar to me and to construct a cohesive and dynamic formal wear gown.

Before the sketching process started, design-provoking images were collected and inspirational design elements gleaned. This ensemble was created with the Avant Garde style in mind. Since these types of pieces are usually off kilter and unrealistic, I chose to bring to life a melodious version of the style. In order to incorporate the Avant Garde style into the outfit, subtle protruding gill-like panels were created to accentuate the hips and to add innovation to the overall design.

While choosing the colors and fabrics, I took into account the fluidity of the fabrics with each other and made sure the hue of the rose gold in the sequin and brocade were in harmony. Multiple fittings were required during the sample stage as well as on the final garment to ensure

a proper fit. The gills posed the biggest challenge as to whether they were too big, too small, not protruding enough or if it was too much for the eye to take in. Changes were made to ensure that the garments were in proper proportion of the body and that they stayed true to my original concept of Avant Garde fashion.

The draping technique was used for both the bodice and skirt in order to properly form the panels to the figure. While creating the gill-like panels protruding from the garment, the flat patterning method was used to ensure symmetry within the panels and to easily control their size.



Multiple fittings were required in order to guarantee the garment was in proportion with itself and a woman's figure. The gills also had to be altered in order for them to lie properly and form to the hips. Since the fabrics used were so delicate, most edges were surged making them easier to work with which created a cleaner inside of the garment.