

Blooming Daffodils

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The creative design process for *Blooming Daffodils* explores a concept of sustainability, and new textile design techniques. This wearable art piece was inspired by the final lifecycle stage of daffodils of dormancy in the fall, as they prepare bulbs for next year. Thus, the designer's goal was to highlight the evolution of the daffodil blooming process that is not visible to the human eye.

Cradle to cradle (C2C) theoretical framework was the basis for this design. A C2C design framework (McDonough & Braungart, 2002) incorporates nature's cyclical materials model into all product and design efforts and thus, C2C design is a biomimetic approach to the design of products. Biomimicry is the emulation of the elements of nature to seek sustainable solution and solve human problems (Vierra, 2011).

The design process included: (a) conducting research on the inspiration and theoretical frameworks, (b) sampling textile design techniques, (c) ideating silhouettes through illustration, (d) construction of ensembles, and (e) peer and self-evaluations of the ensembles and process.

First, information about the theoretical frameworks of Cradle to cradle and lifecycle of daffodils were gathered and carefully reviewed. Then, different types of textile techniques were analyzed and small samples of each were created to see if they are appropriate for the design. Thus, various textile design techniques were adopted, such as: (a) free motion embroidery/stitching, (b) hand embroidery, and (c) beading. With the sample swatches, several flat sketches of design silhouettes were made and one final design was selected with a help of advisor. For the



Figure 1. Details

construction of the garment, free motion embroidery was applied to 100% silk organza that was layered with sulky paper, which dissolves in water, on each pattern piece of the dress. For the skirt, five different colors of threads were used for stitching and invisible heat 'n bond fusible was applied to shape the skirt. The hem of the skirt was only made up of threads, not attached to any support fabrics. These threads were stitched together with sulky paper and to create lace like textures, a process that took several days since each section was soaked in water and dried overnight. A large daffodil was hand embroidered and pillow stuffing was inserted between threads to create blooming shapes. Several fabric swatches were cut out into a shape of petals and beads were attached along the trails of the yellow embroidery fossils.

The two piece dress, "Blooming Daffodils," has long sleeves, a peplum, a waistline seam and a-line skirt. The resulting dress well represents blooming daffodils through sustainable design discipline and innovative design techniques, and met the designer's goals



Figure 2. Front

References

- McDonough W., & Braungart M. (2002). *Cradle to Cradle*. New York: North Point Press.
- Vierra, S. (2011, October). *Biomimicry: Designing to Model Nature*. Retrieved July 8, 2013 from <http://www.wbdg.org/resources/biomimicry.php>