

Silk Sampler

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Keywords: Design, sustainability, silk

Aesthetics and Visual Impact

Accented by the fuchsia raw silk, this silk sack dress follows design principles as it incorporates the elements in this asymmetrical design, guided by the shapes and sizes of the bias samples. A strong tactile sense is created by the plethora of silk textures, accented by chains and edged in fuchsia.



outline the garment's asymmetrical edges.

Contextual Review and Concept

The concept was to repurpose small samples of silk fabrics into a modified silk sack dress. Repurposing has been one strategy in the apparel sustainability movement, and one of this designer's great interests. According to the online *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (2015), to repurpose is to give a new use or purpose to. The weight and drape of the silk samples made the sack dress a suitable silhouette for further design exploration.

Process, Technique, and Execution

The materials included small silk samples, a discarded cotton percale sheet, and a fuchsia silk shantung remnant. Most silk samples were nearly four inches square with pinked edges. The modified base sack dress was cut from the sheet. The silk samples were pinned to the base design, with the sample edges overlapping slightly. These were then zigzag stitched together onto the sheet. The fuchsia silk was made into narrow flat trim to

Cohesiveness

The silk samples came from discarded sample books and selections were made based on compatibility of color or mood. A variety of chain remnants and unused necklaces were attached to the dress front to create rhythm and embellishment. Some chains were stitched with fuchsia yarn for added texture and color.



Design Contribution and Innovation

The fashion upcycling phenomenon seems to be a paradigm shift, representing a fresh way of thinking (Stewart, 2014). In 1957, the fashion houses of Givenchy and Balenciaga introduced the “Sack Dress” in their spring collections. It was a dress with no waist that narrowed at the hem. Givenchy reportedly considered it more of a way of dressing than merely a dress style (Troxel, 2013). This design of repurposed silk was based on the sack silhouette, but treated asymmetrically.

References

Repurpose. In *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary* (2015). Retrieved May 2015 from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/repurpose>

Troxel, C. (2013, September). The 1950's sack dress. Retrieved May 2015 from <http://divinestitches.org/2013/09/30/the-1950s-sack-dress-an-old-fashion-trend-ill-skip/>