

## Dove

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Keywords: Bridal, lace, corset, understructure

Inspired by Vera Wang's timeless wedding dresses, Dove was designed to bestow grace and elegance on a bride's special day. This gown was designed in a Special Occasion Apparel class in which one of the primary objectives was to learn how to fit and construct understructures. A figure-hugging taffeta corset, with Rigilene stays, forms the bodice of the underdress and supports the bride for a posture of confidence. The A-line skirt of the underdress is given shape with six layers of tulle attached at knee level to a layer of lining. A second layer of lining falls against the bride's skin to protect her from the scratchy tulle. The bodice of the bridal dress is constructed from ivory Venice lace appliques which were hand pieced together to create the bodice silhouette. This was the first time that I constructed a corset and worked with lace.



Each lace applique was approximately 3" by 3"; they were manipulated and hand-stitched together over a dress form to build the structure of the bodice without visible seams. The piecing took approximately 250 hours. The shaped lace bodice was then attached to a raw silk underlining. The skirt of the dress was attached to the underlining and more lace appliques were added to the skirt to create a figure-slimming silhouette.

As an undergraduate student, working in bridal was a completely new challenge. In order to become more familiar with the construction techniques used in bridal, I scoured images in magazines and on the



internet and studied the construction of bridal gowns that were available to us in class. I believe that this gown addresses the needs of many brides in that it would complement a variety of figure types.