

Sztuka Ludowa

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Soft shapes, hard lines, dark, and light this is the inspiration I drew from the Polish Exposition Pavilion Center in Shanghai, 2011. This building has cut out designs of Polish folk art, Sztuka Ludowa in Polish, which is what I named my dress. It also resembles the art of paper folding. I took this idea and created white peplums that protrude from either hip of the dress creating some structure to the silhouette. The building's dark and empty cut-out shapes and shadows are juxtaposed with the actual cut outs in the light colored wood sheets. This transition of dark to light inspired the black and white color palette of the dress.

The soft and hard shapes of the folk art inspired the designs that are laser cut onto the re-purposed black leather center panel of the bodice. The laser cut leather piece is lined with a nude organza. The neckline is a simple jewel neckline to dramatize the laser cut motif. The princess side panels connect just above the bust to the leather front bodice piece and create a harsh angle down to the side seam and rises back up at the connection to the back leather piece. The harsh corners of the building inspired the piping I made of white denim and sewed into almost every seam for additional contrast.

White denim is used on the side princess panels of the bodice and on the center front and back panels of the skirt portion, which extends to the floor. The white exaggerated peplums on the hips are interfaced and self lined with a piping edge as well adding volume to the silhouette. The white stretch denim that is used in the skirt portion and the black shiny polyester creates contrast much like the cut-out shapes and shadows in the Pavilion Center. A gold exposed zipper closure runs down the center back of the fully lined dress.



The measurements for this dress are 33” for the bust, 26” for the waist, and 36.5” for the hip. It was completed on March 25, 2014. While making this dress, I combined innovation and sustainability using upcoming laser cutting technology and reusing leather materials to create a unique work of wearable art.