

Sheer Elegance

Kate Bernhard

(bridal, lace, corset, pleating)



The design for this bridal gown was created for a special occasion apparel class. I wanted to learn couture bridal techniques, gain experience in building an understructure, and experiment with mixing fabrics. I was inspired by Cecil Chapman's draping technique. The pleated bodice was draped over a corset understructure; the drape continues into the skirt to form an asymmetric pannier on the right side of the dress. Silk duchess satin, silk organza, and Alençon lace fabrics were used. The organza was also used for the corset.

One of the biggest challenges was to anticipate how much fabric was needed as the bodice was draped in fashion fabric, rather than muslin. Another design challenge was to determine how the various fabrics met at the center back without disrupting the flow of the garment. Just keeping the garment clean during the long hours of construction required great care.

