



The Dead of Winter-Shood Boucle Jacket

Ashley Lehnen and Laura Kane (Mentor). Mount Mary University

Ready to Wear, Functional Clothing, Textile Innovation

Bust 36", Waist 38", Hip 40", Length 40"

Mentor Statement: Ashley completed this project as her final in my Tailoring course. Students were encouraged to work with traditional and nontraditional fabrics and create an original coat design. Ashley's oversized shawl collar and hood (shood, rhymes with hood) combination, unique back drawstring detail, and fabric selection provided her with several challenges throughout the project. She utilized her body fabric in several unique ways by using both the face and reverse side in the garment and the raveled selvage edges along the sleeves and pockets. Throughout the design process she focused on proportion and texture, trying several different types of fabrics and proportions of paper pattern pieces until she was satisfied with the overall look. Throughout the process I assisted her by providing feedback on the steps of construction and how to work with the materials she selected. Ashley's collection that included this jacket earned her the Most Marketable Collection award at the annual student fashion show.

Design Statement: In a Post Apocalyptic world resources are limited. The way civilization worked in the past no longer applies to the present. Every day is survival of the fittest and every night individuals go to bed appreciative they made it through one more day. My garment, "The Dead of Winter-"Shood" Boucle Jacket" is rooted in this concept. With the recent burst in Post-Apocalyptic themed movies and Television shows like *Mad Max Fury Road*, *The Walking Dead* and *Star Wars* I thought making garments based off this idea would be very fashion forward and well perceived. Traditional Post-Apocalyptic wear is extremely costume inspired, but my intentions in creating my jacket was to take certain details of this genre of dress and transform those details into a garment that took on a more wearable, edgy and modern look. In other words, I really wanted to create "End of the world" Streetwear.

Sticking with the concept of modernizing Post-Apocalyptic costumes, I thought it was important to emphasize the juxtaposition of hard and soft elements in this piece. I did this by choosing to make the jacket mostly the soft element having it composed of 100% double-faced wool boucle. The portion of the jacket that reads "hard" would be the leather-braided drawstrings and the metal grommets in the back of the garment. Other ways I amped up this juxtaposition was pairing the jacket with some leather skinny cargo leggings and a black, distressed top. Moreover, in a Post-Apocalyptic environment an individual's clothing most likely would not be in perfect condition because of all the elements he or she would be exposed to on a daily basis. The boucle texture and speckled coloring of the wool speaks to this idea. On the inside one can see that the facing of the jacket makes use of this double-faced trait. The outside of the garment features the darker face and the inside features the opposite. I continued to

showcase this unique characteristic by using the grey face as a trim along the inside bottom edge of the jacket. Inside the jacket there is strikingly beautiful polyester, silver, lining.

With that said, there are more natural and raw details that speak to a Post-Apocalyptic world in this jacket. On the outside of the garment the edges to the sleeves and patch pockets are fuzzy and distressed. The sleeves are designed to have an open side vent also attributing to being “perfectly imperfect” in a world where things always are. In addition, if an individual were living with limited resources they most likely would look to nature and the things around them to survive, animals being one of them. Their fur lends a source of warmth, and in this case a source of fashion. The “shood” or the shawl that transforms into a hood is probably my favorite part about this piece. It’s oversized, dramatic, and arguably the most unique feature of this jacket. The “shood” is pewter in color, and composed of a polyester blend of faux long and curly Mongolian fur.

In terms of execution, I began my design process by flat patterning. I manipulated a jacket foundation to how I saw fit. I extended the length to what I desired and removed the fishtail darts in the body of the pattern. I added 3/4 length seaming to the sleeves of the jacket and altered the shape of the bottom of the sleeve to create open vents. I also patterned a pretty complicated and curvy drawstring area to eventually add to the bottom of the body of the jacket. For the “Shood” I literally took direction from my patterning book on how to design a two-piece hood and a basic shawl, then combined the two concepts into one shape. Following the patterning process, I sewed a mock up out of scrap fabric to ensure the length hit where I wanted it to and also to check the fit. Luckily, I only had to make one mock up. Finally, I moved onto my final fabric. I sourced all materials from numerous locations. I bought the wool online from Mood in New York, the faux fur from Etsy, and the notions (leather, grommets, thread and needles) from the local JoAnn’s Fabric and Crafts store.

