



Architecture x Margiela

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Design Mentor Statement

This design was created as part of a mini-collection in a senior capstone course. This student experimented with a variety of materials and haute couture techniques to create a unique and beautifully crafted garment. I chose to sponsor this student not just because of the resulting innovative and visually impactful design, but because the student pushed the limits of the chosen materials in much the same way that the Haute Couture Maison Margiela does. These efforts of continuous ideation and experimentation are reflective of excellence in both creativity and craftsmanship.

Statement of Purpose

The fast fashion industry in the U.S. generates over 15 million tons of textile waste in the landfill due to the rapid disposal rates of garments each year (Leblanc, 2019). This industry is moving at such a rapid pace that nothing can slow it down unless consumers can appreciate and value what they wear more. Once consumers develop an emotional attachment to their garments, it will make them want to preserve them for a longer period of time. These purchases will also minimize their desire to purchase more clothing: when consumers purchase something they like, they no longer need to purchase more because their needs are satisfied. As part of this movement, designers like myself, can create and introduce longer lasting, unique, sentimental wearable art pieces with quality craftsmanship at a more affordable price point. This look is part of my senior capstone hybrid collection that bridges Haute Couture and Ready-to-Wear with sustainable minimal waste. It is inspired by a diverse range of ideas: from Parisian Neo-Byzantine dome architecture to Margiela-inspired use of mixing surface design with unconventional materials, these looks consist of organically structured lines and silhouettes containing repetitive systematic details, mimicking the Parisian architecture. The amount of craftsmanship and details placed into this design is like an art, perhaps a wearable art pieces that wearers will create a sentimental attachment to. My piece, part of my collection called Eclectic, is a systematic, detail-oriented, and Parisian inspired, reimagining Ready-To-Wear.

Aesthetic Properties and Visual Impact

Dome-inspired curvilinear lines and transition of colors were used throughout this look. The green-toned silver Veneta lace neoprene bustier top acts as the focal point of the dome, while a gradation of color transitions from the soft white silk organza layered with soft vinyl sleeve to the dry structure of the pant.

Functional frontal curved lines from the front pocket of the shorts continue all the way to the back creating a continuous curve all throughout the look.

Inspired by the details on the glass of the dome, I incorporated the idea onto the surface design of my garments. For example, textured neoprene fabric is used for the high waisted shorts. The surface design pattern coincidentally mimics the pattern on the dome. I also played with the width of the gap between each surface seaming in order to create an ease of abrasion between two thighs and reduce the amount of bulk between seams. After calculating the placement and trimming the 3-D surface design meticulously, the crotch seam and side seams match perfectly in a chevron direction. In this look, I played with the placement of lines for both top and bottom.

Process, Technique, and Execution

This look includes a silver green bustier top with short smocked off-the-shoulder sleeves, and a pair of textured high-waisted shorts, creating a mixed media look with unconventional combinations. The silver green bustier is lined with a layer of sheer soft white silk organza, allowing wearer to see the craftsmanship inside of the garment. The top is finished with soft white silk organza and vinyl smocked sleeves, which creates a mix combination of wet and dry looks. This mimics the glossy stain glass dome, contrasting against the wooden architectural structure. The off-white, high-waisted short has 102-seams and is constructed out of a checker neoprene fabric. In addition, 92 seams of 3-D surface design with side seams match up at each checkered point, creating a chevron pattern. Sometimes, the neoprene fabric is extremely hard to sew with, so I incorporated a strip of organza and placed it where the stitching occurs to make it easier to sew on the machine. In addition, the soft structure of the puffy sleeves and each of the seam mimics the structure and curve of the dome.

Cohesion

I brought all the elements together by translating the concept of bridging Neo-Byzantine architecture with Margiela's use of mixed media into surface manipulations, which involves couture techniques that contribute to the overall aesthetic properties of my entire design. Margiela was known for his deconstructive design (displaying the inside of the garment as the outside) and usage of mixing unconventional fabric together (combining tulle, crocheted knit, and tweed). With this in mind, instead of sewing with right sides together, I did the opposite by sewing the wrong sides together forming 92 deconstructive surface design seams. Last, the mix of unconventional fabrics are also evident throughout the whole look.

Originality and Innovation

When an object is unique, it becomes something that will last long and be kept for a long time, not easily replaceable. By combining different couture techniques and uses of unconventional combination of fabrics, an investment piece like this is something that people will cherish and wouldn't dispose of easily

Work Cited

LeBlanc, R. (2019, April 27). Textile and Garment Recycling Facts and Figures. Retrieved May 27, 2019, from <https://www.thebalancesmb.com/textile-recycling-facts-and-figures-2878122>



