



Eclectic

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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 fashion industry has a tremendous amount of influence in the marketplace and it's changed the manufacturing practices have been environmentally and socially devastating. The industry is underutilizing sustainable design methods and it's more important than ever to create more meaningful designs. This can be accomplished by incorporating zero-waste and Haute Couture techniques. This will not only bring back the emphasis on the traditional hand craftsmanship, but also help to promote a healthier, more sustainable environment. As part of my senior capstone collection, I decided to create a hybrid collection by merging Haute Couture and Ready-to-Wear while integrating a sustainable zero waste technique into my design. My design goal came with many challenges: how to create a zero-waste garment, what qualifies as a zero-waste garment, and how to create the smocking pattern on vinyl. I was inspired by Parisian Neo-Byzantine dome architecture and Maison Margiela's use of mixing surface design with unconventional materials. The look consists of organically structured lines and silhouettes containing repetitive systematic details, that mimic the Parisian architecture of the Galeries Lafayette. The amount of craftsmanship and detail make this a wearable art piece in which wearers can then

create a sentimental attachment to it. This piece will have wearers finding themselves sentimentally attached to this systematic, detail-oriented, and Parisian inspired, reimagining Ready-To-Wear.

Aesthetic Properties and Visual Impact

The dome-inspired curvilinear lines and the Margiela-inspired surface inventions are captured throughout the design of this look. The dress is draped both organically and structurally, while keeping in mind the balance of lightweight, texture, and airiness. This is produce using unconventional mix of materials. Since each fabric has its own characteristic, white, creamy color, and weight, they all move and blend together seamlessly. I stacked layers of sheer fabric on top of one another in order to create the partially visible partially hidden effect, mimicking the smoky-white semi-transparent stain glass on the dome.

Process, Technique and Execution

I chose to use a combination of draping and smocking techniques to create this zero-waste garment because often, the smocking technique can be done using any shape fabric. I started by creating the “star smocking” pattern because it imitates the star-like details on the stain glass of the dome. The first step is to draw the star smocking dot patterns on the fabric with a marking pencil for regular fabric or use pins to mark on vinyl. Then, I gathered a section of the fabric at a time following the dotted pattern. After creating a basic row of star smocking, I draped it over the mannequin, and began my free form draping method, in which I normally watch and listen to my fabric and see where it wants to take me. This technique is often without boundaries, and I can explore and experiment with different, innovative designs. For the front, without cutting anything off of the cream linen crepe fabric, I simply smocked, draped, and tucked away all the irregular edges, creating a one-of-a kind look. The design procedure for both front and back started off with just a panel of 34 smocking points located about 5 inches away from the raw edges, leaving the rest of the fabric hanging free, draped on the mannequin, and pinned draped designs in place. The final step was to hand-tack all of the draped designs in place and finish all of the raw edges with baby hems, creating a fine, airy feeling. To add an extra layer of depth, I created a sheer boat neck dress lining, with baby hems on the neckline and armhole area, which create a clean, effortless, sophisticated look. Additionally, all the seams in this transparent lining are finished with French seams.

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 wild choice of fabric combination with different surface texture. The black glove top constructed out of black leather gloves was a great example from his work. Drawing inspiration from his design, I challenged myself by smocking on linen crepe and vinyl, both are unusual material to be smocked on.

Originality and Innovation

Each statement piece in a wardrobe has a meaning and story unique to the wearers. This statement design was created with the intention to provide sensory pleasure through the use unconventional combination of fabrics and techniques. When an object is unique, it becomes something that will last long and be kept for a long time, not easily replaceable.



