

Bell sleeve meets elegance: Two-piece Lace garment

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Design Mentor Statement:

This ensemble was completed in an upper-level creative apparel design course. The purpose of the mentorship relationship was to guide the student in developing a marketable line of apparel for a focused target market. This ensemble is one of five samples developed for the apparel line. The mentorship process began with informational lectures on each step of apparel line design and development. The purpose of the mentorship relationship—development of an apparel line—was guided and met through the completion of a series of assignments that built on each other. The student received both formative and summative feedback at each step. Steps included: (a) design brief development, (b) target market research, (c) inspiration research, (d) brand design statement development, (e) trend research, (f) mood board development, (g) color and fabric board development, (h) fashion illustration of ensembles, (i) technical sketching of garments, (j) first pattern creation, (k) first sample creation, (l) production sample creation, (m) presentation of 1st samples, (n) line plan development, (o) specifications/tech package development, (p) line sourcing, costing, & pricing, and (q) promotional materials development. This project was selected for submission due to its cohesion of trends found through research, design goals, and selected fabric to create an ensemble appropriate for the target market.

Design Statement

Statement of Purpose:

I was challenged to create a collection of my choice. I researched trends through various websites such as WGSN. Through my research, I found that see-through, ruffle/gathers, and cutouts were some of the trends of Spring 2020. In my line I wanted to create pieces that had a designer look to them but with moderate prices. One of the looks I created was this two-piece ensemble that incorporated my design goals and the trends of Spring 2020. This piece included the trends of see-through fabrics, gathers, and cut-outs. The entire piece has lace throughout it. The lace is see-through but not too see-through.

Aesthetic Properties and Visual Impact:

I wanted to take multiple categories of dress and mix them. I wanted to take bell sleeves and turn it into something elegant while still keeping an urban feel to it all while pleasing women's vulnerability. The knit lace that I selected had a baroque design to it, conveying an extravagant feel. The entire piece has lace throughout and the lace is see-through but not too see-through. It also is a two-piece that shows skin in two areas. Both of these elements captured the woman's vulnerability. The bell sleeves were gathered and made of lace and add volume to the garment. The dress has an elegant and urban feel to it because the wearer can dress it up or dress it down. Visually, the garment hugs the body and shows off curves.

Process, Technique, and Execution:

I draped to execute the patterns for this two-piece ensemble (DiMarco, 2010). I began by draping the front bodice piece that ties in the middle. I wanted the fabric to slant down the bust and slant up below the bust to achieve the look. I next draped the back piece that connects to the front piece at the shoulder and side. Using the armhole measurements I created the sleeve. The skirt was draped front and back piece and using the measure I created the waistband.

I lined up the middle of the skirt to the middle of large scale lace design in the skirts so it had an equal lace design on the front skirt. I used lace and polyester throughout each piece similar to the block color technique, only I used different fabrics. That element covered the see-through skirt trend. It also is a two-piece ensemble that shows skin in two areas. That covered the cut-out trend.

Aesthetic Properties, Visual Impact, and Cohesion:

By combining elegant with urban and matching it to this baroque lace design I was able to create these unique garments. The lace shows skin but not too much. The sleeve gives the whole piece volume and excitement. I created this piece by mixing elegant and urban. The piece can be dressed up and dress down.

Originality and Innovation:

This garment gives the wearer elegance while still showing skin. The two-piece shows sophistication and women's vulnerability. The lace is placed in a specific spot so it's equal on both sides of the front skirt. The silhouette is tight and shows off curves. The bell sleeves add volume and fun to the whole garment. The purpose was met in my design because it follows my design aesthetic and also the trends of Spring 2020.

References

Di Marco, S. (2010). *Draping basics*. New York: Fairchild Books.

