



LA VITA LOCA

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This late 19th-century Spanish-inspired dress was completed as a final project for a senior design class to create a garment using Louisiana alligator skins. The design team selected black classic-finished skins. The low flexibility of the material presented challenges in design, fit, seaming, and finishing. The closely fitted V-neck, basque waist alligator bodice is trimmed with handmade red-on-black ribbon lace. It is attached to a fully flared black silk taffeta skirt, lined in red, with a graduated knee to mid-calf length. The millennium twist of alligator combined with the timelessness of silk taffeta results in a unique design that joins the two centuries of fashion.