



## À LA FRANÇOISE

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The inspiration for this 3-piece beach wear design can be stated simply her name is Françoise and she's French. This multi-layered, multi-look outfit strives to balance femininity with fun, elegance, and ease at every level.

One element which achieves this objective is the mixture of contrasts and complements in both color and texture. While the swim suit may appear to be a maillot, a closer look betrays a two-piece design of tank and bikini brief joined by a single layer of fine Lycra mesh over midriff and tummy. Light chartreuse Lycra in the tank top is made lighter by a matte mesh overlay paired with a bold stripe in dark cobalt blue shiny stretch vinyl along the bottom of the tank. The mesh serves as an overlay to the bikini in white Lycra.

The concept behind a second piece, a white mock turtleneck tee, shows a good measure of savoir faire as well, in details like fine curled-Lycra ties at the neck, or un-"T"-like princess seams and Lycra-bound edging. This update transforms the traditional coverup into a stylish accessory. The tour de force is the addition of an innovative coverup-flare-legged, drop-waisted overalls in cobalt stretch vinyl with chartreuse and orange highlights. Lines are of utmost importance; hence curve and extension dominate from the shaped pinafore to deep side pockets and Lycra-bound slitted bellbottoms. Elasticized criss-crossing straps, metal clasps, and drawstring lacings at the waist may push the ensemble to the edge, but the addition of 100% cotton terry accents in the wide flared-leg lining, the waistband, and the functioning front pocket becomes a styling coup d'etat.