



The Hideaway Set

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Mentor Statement: This work, a pant and jacket ensemble, was completed by the student as part of her advanced apparel assembly class and as independent study. The student developed her own patterns through flat patterning techniques and created muslin prototypes to test fit the patterns before using these to construct her designs. Most importantly, the student incorporated intricate and creative details in her design, aligned with her design concept of reflecting the ideas of empathy gap in human relationships in her work. The details are often understated, to be discovered only upon closer inspection, mimicking the idea of discovering more about a person and developing empathy as we get to know them closer. The student also used laser cutting to develop floral elements for the jacket, which can be hidden away or revealed by fastening a button. The quality of the design, construction, and overall design concept is excellent.

Design concept and purpose: This design symbolizes the difference between our internal worlds and experiences that we may choose to *Hideaway* from the outside world for fear of ridicule, and those that we choose to share. Both the jacket and the pants feature intricate paneling details that are not immediately evident, but reveal themselves upon further observation. This is a parallel concept to the changes seen when getting to know a person over time. The person becomes more complex but also easier to understand.

The intention is to propose a bridge in the “empathy gap” that is so prevalent in the turbulent times that we are currently experiencing. The “empathy gap” was discussed by M.I.T cognitive neuroscientist Emile Bruneau in an article for The New York Times as follows: “When considering an enemy, the mind generates an “empathy gap.” It mutes the empathy signal, and that muting prevents us from putting ourselves in the perceived enemy’s shoes” (Interlandi, 2015, p. 20). If we as people were able to see each other as the deeply complex and intricate beings that we are, perhaps empathy wouldn’t be such a difficult feeling to conjure. Author and shame researcher Dr. Breñe Brown summarized this beautifully: “People are hard to hate close up. Move in” (Brown, 2017, p. 72).

Design, process, and techniques: This set is comprised of a jacket which features topstitched paneling at the front opening, shoulders and back. It has an asymmetric belted closure along with a magnetic button that can be worn unfastened to reveal bright teal laser-cut flowers, or fastened to hide the detail away. This is all above a bottom-pleated panel skirted portion that runs the circumference of the jacket. This jacket is also fully lined with the same brightly colored fabric

as the flowers with coordinating pockets hidden within the pleats. The pants feature a wide waistband with circular topstitched panels radiating from the pocket openings towards the hips in the front and panels on the back that originate from the center back seam to the side back hip.

The pattern for the jacket and pants were created using traditional flat patterning techniques. Once the initial patterns were created, the panels were then cut out and each had ½” seam allowance added. Muslin prototypes were created (Figure 1a) to test fit the patterns. These garments were assembled using overlock and lockstitch machines. Each component of the garment was edge-finished using an overlock stitch and sewn together using a ½” seam allowance, allowing for the ease of repair and alteration in the future. The

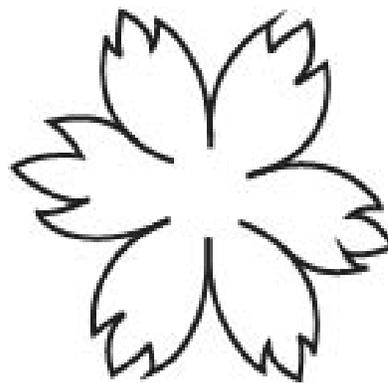


Figure 1: (a) Initial muslin prototype for the jacket, and (b) floral design for laser-cut details.

body of both the jacket and the pants is made of 100% wool, with 100% polyester lining, making the pieces easily recycled once the lining is separated from the body.

Featured on the inner left lapel are several five-petal flowers (Figure 1b) which were designed in Adobe Illustrator and cut out using a laser cutter. Three separate sizes were created to be used in the final piece. These flowers were attached to the lapel using pronged studs pushed through the inner lapel and the laser cut flower.

Innovation and significance: This set features several understated details meant to draw in the eye of the consumer, enticing them to further discover the garment. This relationship mirrors our relationship with our fellow humans. We are living in a time of political and social polarity, where neither side of any issue is capable of understanding the other. Perhaps if we move in and take a closer look at the details, we could access a new level of understanding and ease the strife.

References

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