

## Malachite

Melanie Bibko, Washington State University, USA

Keywords: Activewear, performance, knitwear, lifestyle



**Purpose:** The idea behind this design was to create activewear that not only flattered the wearer's body and allowed ease of movement throughout exercise, but also reflected inspiration from superheroes and video game character designs to inspire feelings of strength and power in the user.

**Process:** The top and vest of this ensemble were draped to a size 8 industry dressform and then refined on the fit model. The pants were draped directly on the model to achieve a body-hugging look without being too tight or too loose. The cut-outs on the leg reduce irritation of seam lines by moving them away from the sideseam on the hipline. They also offer an eye-catching contour and color contrast. A cinched waistband on the pants flatters the figure in a roused, contrasting detail while still allowing ease of movement. The woven textile vest is a wind-proof and water-proof ripstop that allows the wearer some protection from the elements. The knit textiles are soft so as not to create any irritation while exercising and provide enough stretch to complete even the most difficult of yoga poses. They are also absorbent enough to wick away sweat but still keep the user warm and comfortable while going to or from the gym, or even if they wear the garment as everyday wear. The Italian-made nylon/lycra tricot fabric from the pants and top create bindings on the vest to reduce rubbing from the woven ripstop textile on areas of movement like the armscye and neckline.

**Techniques:** Seams were all serged off to create a tight and secure binding as well as reducing any seam allowance as not to affect the comfort of the wearer. Zippers on the neckline of the top and vest allow easy dressing and opening for ventilation.

**Materials:** Italian nylon/lycra tricot, nylon ripstop, matching zippers