

The Historical Inspiration of Structuring Beauty: An Unconventional Wedding Dress

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stomas and toga's.

During the design exploration for Structuring Beauty, an unconventional wedding dress, I looked at embellishing details of my previous work (inspired by other cultures) and the work of Christian Dior and Yves St. Laurent for guidance and inspiration. The work of these two designers inspired the desire to develop an architectural feeling to the flowing softness of the silk organza and silk satin purchased for the project. The appliqué detailing created for a recent cocktail dress design inspired me to test and manipulate the single squared appliqués used for that design to see if they could be interpreted into something beyond the re-imagined Grecian key often seen as *clavi* placed on the border of Greek and Roman's leaders'



Using the 4" ribbioned silk organza appliqué sample from a recent cocktail dress, I sewed multiple samples that were embellished with three coppery-colored ombré ribbons applied in descending length order from biggest to smallest. I folded the samples diagonally this time. These new triangular-shaped appliqués were then manipulated into different geometric formations that could be applied by hand to create the essence of the Aztec culture. The placement of

the squares in the back pyramid shape exaggerated the front border that captured the feel of a punctuated Aztec linear/geometric figures. The architectural feeling from the stacked triangles

This wedding dress was produced in the trending café colors of silk satin, silk organza, and Bemberg rayon lining that flows and compliments every inch of a bride's figure. The detailing of the appliqué adds interest and invites attention. The design has a conservative front bodice with a sheer yoke leading the eye down to a dramatic wrap front skirt, but saves the most interest for the back of the dress. The pyramid-like stacked motif of the short train leads the eye up to the delicate interwoven bias straps of the back bodice. The effect offers the attention most brides seek while walking down the aisle and repeating the vows.

Structuring Beauty will attract the attention of the brides ages 20 -50 who do not want to be categorized as a "traditional bride." This unconventional wedding dress was created for the consumer who needs something different, but elegant and structured.

