

Il Duomo: Cattedrale

Christiana Boretti, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA

Keywords: Smocking, Pleating, Texture, Detail

The idea for the ensemble, titled *Il Duomo*, is inspired by the beauty and detail of cathedrals in Europe. Each piece of the Cattedrale collection utilizes various means of fabric manipulation to emulate the immaculate detail in the cathedral architecture. *Il Duomo* is inspired by Il Duomo di Milano in Italy. The history of the cathedral contains a mystery of the identity of the original architect, and the finished duomo lacks a distinct architectural style. In the design of the



cathedral itself, there is not one particular style of architecture from the era that can be linked to the finished product; many styles were merged to form a beautiful end result. *Il Duomo* is inspired by this collection of multiple techniques to create something new and elegant.

The designer used various forms of fabric manipulation and types of fabric to create this effect in the garments. The vision for *Il Duomo* is to combine classic elegance with modern style. The pieces complement one another with simple silhouettes enhanced by the more intricate details.

For the jacket, the designer used the sleeves as the canvas for incorporating the cathedral inspiration. The shoulders exhibit a Canadian smocking detail to incorporate depth and texture in the garment. The smocking was done entirely by hand by the designer. The smocked shoulder is complimented by a band of metallic gold fabric with knife pleats of 1/4" width. The pleating was done by an industrial pleating machine in order to ensure consistency throughout the garment. Thermoplastic fabric was used to create a sharper pleat

and to prevent the pleats from losing shape over time. Alternating bands of ivory and gold fabric follow the pleats to complete the sleeve. A mandarin collar was added to keep the silhouette timeless and incorporate some of the cathedral theme. The jacket is fully lined and bound with metallic gold double fold bias tape for a clean edge, attached by hand.

The tank consists entirely of antique silk fabric, cut and sewn to a modern silhouette. The front of the tank is cropped to the waist with a conservative neckline, while the back neckline scoops to the waist and the hem drops below the hipline. The curve of the tank adds an organic feature to the more structured silhouette of the jacket. The tank is constructed with French seams and features gold double fold bias tape around all edges, attached by hand, for an elegant finish.

The pants for the Il Duomo design exhibit a contrasting gold and ivory riding pant silhouette. The designer's vision was to add a design element to the pants without taking the attention away from the detail in the jacket sleeves. The riding pant style adds to the overall design without overwhelming the collection of pieces as a whole. The curve of the yoke balances the structured jacket and the contrasting waistband.

The garment is made to fit a model of: Bust 35",
Waist 26", Hips 36".

