

Zero Waste Ensemble

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This look was developed and created for a Cut and Sew Knits course assignment. The course challenged students to create a zero waste women's sportswear look of two or more pieces. Each student was given two yards of ivory organic cotton interlock and two yards of ivory organic cotton fleece. Any fabric scrap not used in the ensemble was saved and each garment was shown at the semesters end with the resulting "waste" fabric.

My initial research began with zero waste patterns, and more specifically kimonos. After exploring various ways to utilize a whole piece of fabric without creating waste, including $\frac{1}{4}$ scale draoing and pattern studies, the idea of approaching a pattern as large shapes that can create a garment rather than trying to create a garment out of the necessary shapes lead to my research

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solution. The historical convention of Japanese dress balancing both complexity and simplicity inspired the kimono style jacket and the tent dress. Kimono construction utilizes lengths of fabric without cutting curves and is innovative in its protection of the character of the piece of cloth.

The jacket was created without pattern pieces and is made up of various rectangular shapes to create the silhouette. It is made out of 100% organic cotton interlock and features a double-layered collared with stitching details and style lines to create texture. The jacket as a whole was created with the intention of creating something classic but new.

The dress started by using a shibori bounding method in which the entirety of the fabric was tied with over 1000 rubber bands to then be dyed. The dyeing method utilized organic substances, coffee, and tea were the final dye stuffs. The garment was also created with measurements alone and is made up of one large tent-like shape and various rectangles, which make up the oversized turtle neck and the drawstrings. This shape used the maximum length and width of the 2 yards of 60" wide interlock, shape is given to the bodice by the placement of small tucks coming from the shoulder.

The resulting waste filled less than ¼ of a small Ziploc sandwich bag.