Architectural Apparel Design

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The design development process can be approached by a variety of perspectives. Often, it is these varied perspectives that provide opportunity for exploration and experimentation that contributes to what we might consider innovative. In exploring these perspectives, graduate students from the School of Design and the School of Architecture and Interior Design have collaborated on a project that explores an architectural perspective of apparel design. This exploration of perspective merges the methodology and design thinking of an architect and fashion designer who share the common goal of exploring new design work through an alternative lens.

In bridging these disciplines, graduate students explored the methodology and design language of both perspectives through development exercises that included material selection and development, layering and joining techniques, and technologies utilized by both disciplines. The architectural concepts of registry and joinery were mirrored by the fashion design principles of construction, material manipulation and shape. Students collaborated in the development of garments with the goal of realizing a truly collaborative effort merging architecture and fashion design.

The result of this collaboration was a dress made of double-faced bonded neoprene (100% polyester knit bonded to 2.5mm rubber sheeting). The neoprene provided body and structure, which supported the developed silhouette and planned fabric manipulation. The fabric manipulation was inspired by the repetitive and congruent lines often found and studied in architecture, representative of the concept of registry. Shaping elements were employed to mimic the angled and repetitive line found in the manipulation – further identifying with the concept of

registry. The pattern was digitized and laser cut from the bonded neoprene before final assembly on machine and by hand.