

Rusted

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The goal of this ensemble was to transform an element that represents deterioration into an



element that is part of something new. Old rusted bridges provided the inspiration for this ensemble. I was drawn to the contrast between the structure and stability with the slow corrosion of rusting. White silk dupion was dyed by wrapping the fabric in and around rusted objects such as chains, shovels, bolts and washers to reflect the beautiful patterns and colors created by oxidation of metal over the years. The resulting fabric takes a rust-colored print reminiscent of tie dye. The pattern for the short blazer was draped. The curved style lines of the jacket reflect the large arches from my inspiration. The strong shoulders and silhouette are used to give the look of strength and structure to contrast the look of rusted deterioration. The silk jacket lining was also dyed. The sleeves of the jacket are made from quilted leather that I quilted myself to represent the crisscrossing of lines found on the

bridges. An unexpected challenge was that rust particles left in the dyed fabrics made needle penetration difficult, especially on the thin lining fabric.

The jacket is paired with high waisted black denim jeans using flat patterning to create the pattern. The seaming in the jeans reflects the structure of rusted bridges.

A corseted leotard was also created using flat patterning to be worn with the blazer. The black cotton lycra was treated with a bleaching technique to further reflect the rusted effect. Boning and padding are used to give the top shape.

