

## A Bride's Gift

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Bridal fashion underwent a series of transformations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After researching this special period for wedding dresses, my design was inspired by royal wedding gowns such as the United Kingdom's Princess Beatrice's 1885 gown, which was fitted in front and ruffled on the hip with a long train. The purpose of this design is to create a sustainable yet fashionable and innovative wedding dress that will satisfy a brides' need for creativity, identity, and versatility.

The wedding ensemble contains two dresses that can both be worn separately. The multiple ways-to-wear allow the design to be ideal for a series of wedding events as well as other future occasions. When the longer dress is worn under the shorter dress, it creates a wedding gown that reflects the silhouette of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When the two pieces are worn separately, one creates an elegant maxi silk dress with cotton embroidered lace in the center front and back, while the other forms a cute and short silk dupioni dress with detailed ruffle top and straps from the same lace.

The long dress was made first with a mermaid skirt and Empire waist followed by a shorter dress built on top to achieve a perfect fit. The body of the shorter dress was made with ruched panels and beaded piping in the seams. A folding technique was used to create the skirt's structure. The center zipper was set by hand with pearls caught in each hand stitch down the center back of the short dress. The Venice embroidered lace, popularly used in 19<sup>th</sup> century wedding gowns, was included on both dresses so they would work in concert with each other.

In this historically inspired design, a bride's desire of both a traditional western gown and changeable apparel are achieved. Additionally, it also promotes sustainability by the use of natural fabrics and multiple wear principles. The completed date of the dress is May 6, 2014. The size of the garment is US size 4, and the measurements are Bust: 34", Waist: 27", and Hip: 37".

