

## Forest Tale

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The purpose of this design was to explore the use of upholstery fabric in a wearable art form. Inspiration for the design came from the beauty of nature. In particular forest landscapes with trees and plants informed the use of color, space, and shape in the design.

The diagonal spiral moving up the body from the hem around the waist and then seen in the pattern on the right side of the bodice emulates the natural growth of organic matter. The use of structured materials on the hip and bodice reflect the trunk of trees or stems of flowers. The tan fabric found on the hip and left side of the bodice was chosen because the texture resembles a soft tree bark. These pattern pieces that utilize the stiffer upholstery fabric give support to the whimsical ruffled flounce that flows down and around the body. This lighter weight fabric represents the leaves and flower petals that hang loosely and blow in the wind. The edges of the lightweight fabric on the skirt were purposely left raw and finished with hand buttonhole stitches to resemble the natural edges of leaves.

The garments were created utilizing draping techniques. A sample was created for each piece before the design was executed in fashion fabric. After the garments were adjusted for fit, pattern pieces were created and trued. The skirt is secured on the side with four wooden toggle buttons and four corresponding loops. An invisible zipper secures the top at the center back.

