

Through a Tuscan Garden

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The inspiration of this apparel design came from photos while on a study abroad trip to Italy mixed with the 1960's housewife and making her the modern "Susie Homemaker." The purpose of this design was to create a repeat on fabric using Adobe CS6 software and merge it with a Mimaki TX2-1600 to digitally print fabric for a stunning garment with depth and dimension.

While traveling to 27 different cities in Italy over a 5-month period, photos of flowers were taken. The red tulip, was perfectly growing in the middle of the road as vespas rushed by, the aloe plant was beaming in the sunlight in Sorrento, and the sunflower was falling over the edge of a mountain, making each flower in the textile print tell a story of its own. Simple style lines were chosen so the flowers would tell the story. The pattern pieces were draped on a size 8 Wolf dress form with a 2-layer circle skirt which was flat patterned. The bottom layer of the skirt was made longer than the top layer and fabric was chosen to create the illusion of three dimensions.



The images were uploaded into Adobe Photoshop CS6 where the magnetic lasso tool was used to isolate each flower and placed into a new file. Exposure and brightness were changed as well as color balance to obtain the optimum clarity of each flower. Each flower was strategically placed to create a repeat pattern. Once the floral textile print was created, scale was changed so there was a difference in the bodice and skirt pieces.

From there Wasatch software was used to upload the textile print and printed on a Mimaki TX2-1600 textile printer. Silk charmeuse 12mm and silk gauze 4.5mm were the chosen fabrics and purchased already PFP (prepared-for-printing) fabric was used to work with reactive inks loaded in the textile printer. The bodice and underlayer of the skirt were printed on 12mm silk charmeuse and the top layer of the skirt was printed on the silk gauze 4.5mm.

Once printing of fabric was complete, the paper backing was removed and fabric was rolled on a coil to steam on a DigiFab fabric steamer. At the completion of steaming, the fabric was washed, and dried. Pattern pieces were then cut

and sewn to complete the skirt. The gauze layer of the skirt was lined up directly on top of the charmeuse layer and moved ½” to the right to create an optical illusion when the dress sways. An invisible zipper was inserted in the side seam and a full lining was attached. This created a fully finished, clean, garment. With the one-of-a-kind floral print mixed with the modest, vintage, dress silhouette it creates the perfect modern day dress for “Susie homemaker”.

