

Yin & Yang

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The paired-outfits were inspired by the Chinese philosophy, Yin-yang, which describes how seemingly contrary forces are in fact complementary and interrelated to one another. The purpose of this design is to celebrate the beauty of contrast in shapes (positive-negative space) and colors (black-white) on the skin. The designs are being submitted as one piece to represent this contrasting unity between different forces.



In order to create the final piece a pattern for a form fitting bodysuit with a single back seam and inseam was drafted and then scanned into the computer using the program Optitex. This specific silhouette was selected because a bodysuit with one seam has more surface area for design and also allows for more design continuity. Several fittings were conducted in order to make sure the fit of the garment could be suited to several body types and give off the same effect. Dropping the crotch and scooping out room in the back center seam ultimately allowed the suit to stretch

over the curves of the model and create a second, skin-like, appearance. Once the pattern was finalized it was scanned into Optitex once again and then exported to Adobe Illustrator for further surface design.

Next the design for the pattern on the bodysuit was created using Adobe Illustrator. Positive and negative space with the skin was expressed through the use of cutouts created by laser cutting. When executing the design it was important to create enough cutouts in order to produce interesting negative space, while still keeping enough solid fabric for overall balance. The shapes of cutout were inspired by the surface of dragon fly wings. The Illustrator pen tool was used in order to trace dragonfly wing shapes. The shapes were then resized, rotated, and arranged to create the final cut pattern for the bodysuits. A single design was created on one side of the suit and then reflected in order to create a mirror image. The placement of the design required enough fabric to cover specific areas of the human body in order to generate an interesting look, while still keeping the overall appearance tasteful and modest. The detailing on the chest area of the garment as well as on the shoulders and back was carefully planned out in order to create the illusion that the model herself is otherworldly, embodying the characteristics of the dragonfly in human form.

Finally the design was cut and sewn to create the final look. The materials used to create this look included a spandex/nylon blend for the black garment and a neoprene for the white garment. The laser cutter created a finished edge on the design so no finishing was required with the cutouts. Both suits have a custom size exposed zipper on the center back seam to allow for great fit as well as ease when trying on and removing the garment.

The paired-outfits will make a contribution to scholarship in the field of apparel design because it implements new forms of technology to create an interesting and appealing surface design for textiles. It shows the possibilities that exist when using a laser cutter and can serve as a platform for inspiration and future designs. If design elements from this piece were to be implemented in activewear design, the possibilities and opportunities that could result are unique, innovative and endless.