

Jogakbo Rose

Eunyoung Yang, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC

Keywords: Natural dye, flat-felled seam, cultural inspiration

In modern culture, a new fashion is created through blending new and old, ethnic and urban, and digital and traditional art. The purpose of this project is to combine the cultural design components, construction techniques, and highlight the sustainable practice of using natural dye to create a modern look.

The inspiration of this garment is derived from the *Jogakbo*. It is a patchwork wrapping cloth or tablecloth that was commonly used by the people in Korean traditional society to carry belongings. Today, it is recognized for its artistic value and aesthetic composition. The motivation of this project was to use the traditional textiles I acquired as family heirloom. The textiles were small rolls of ramie and hemp made by my great aunts about 80 years ago as the most female member of the rural family had practiced domestic weaving. They were about 16 inches in width with imperfections in the thickness of each yarns or regularity in weaving. Even though the textiles were kept in a chest, the fabric deteriorated with aging and was damaged by insects over the years. As I salvaged useable pieces, *jogakbo* patchwork technique was the rational choice to give a life to these precious fabrics.

During the design development of this project, I searched for a way to dye the ramie and hems without using harsh chemicals. A reasonable choice to dye the fabric was the use of natural dyes as Koreans did traditionally. I used Gardenia for different shades of yellows, alkanet for purple, catch for burnt orange, madder for brown, and lac for pink shade of red. The ramie and hemp were pre-mordanted with alum, dyed, and washed. The naturally specked hemp added rustic interest to the fabric.

The main design elements were line and shape with a strong modernity in its geometric plane partition of the rose shape. Rose motif was created by flat pattern. However, the fabric was not cut precisely to the shape of the pattern in order to give slight differences in each rose. The geometric shapes patterns of *jogakbo* reflect unique sentiment and rhythmic sense of Korean culture. There is not only a visual element, but also the aspect of time and space by mixing subdued colors. By connecting four rose motifs at the dress hemline, walking slits and three-dimensional interests were added in between the motifs.

The main dress was draped as a simple A-line silhouette. Instead of tracing to the paper pattern, ramie pieces were pieced to form the dress by molding on the draped muslin as I was constructing the *jogakbo*. The structural darts and seams were eliminated in between the patchwork, making the dress dartless and seamless other than one side seam for an invisible

zipper closure. Traditionally, the seam technique for *jogakbo* is hand-stitched fold over seams which are similar to flat-felled seams. Therefore, *jogakbo* pieces were assembled using flat-felled seams.

Ultimately, this design piece is a unique interpretation of *jogakbo* and the sustainable practice of natural dye. The dress creates rhythmic characteristics with the structural patchwork and decorative rose motif, contributing to the expression of a sense of emphasis, harmony, and unity.

Techniques: Dyeing, Flat-felled seam

Date Completed: August 2015

Measurements: Bust 36", Waist 29", Hip 38.5"

Materials: Fabric- 100% Ramie and 100% Hemp

Dye- Alkanet, Cutch, Gardenia, Lac, and Madder

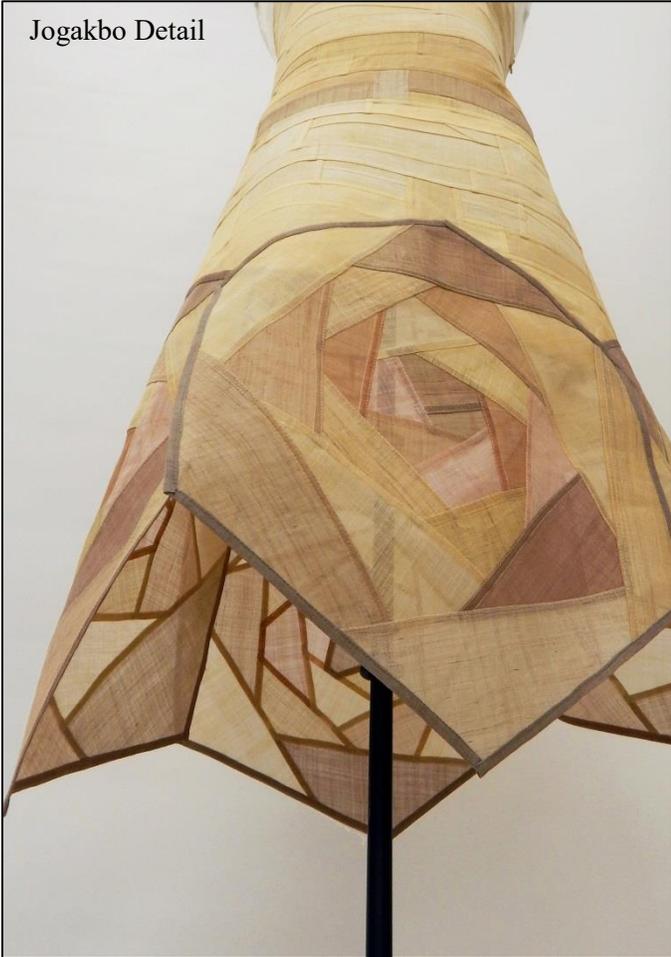
Front



Back



Jogakbo Detail



Flat-Felled Seam Detail

