



Square Interrupted

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Bold basic geometric designs are ubiquitous to society. They cross language barriers and we react to them as some of our first learned images. Fashion allows geometry an intimate and personal relationship with anybody. Through the language of fabric, shapes trick themselves into something unexpected. The trick in this dress makes the viewer deconstruct its fashion form back into its simple bold shape.

The dress is a manipulation of a bold geometric shape, the square, and it reveals unique qualities of that form through fabric. On the skirt, the hem edge has two right angles. This square hem hides in the drape of the skirt and it is motion that reveals its simplicity. To drape the skirt along the yoke edge, the square shape is slashed as in the image below. The fabric is then pleated to create undulating fullness. Asymmetrical yoke seaming sets the square on an angle. Asymmetry brings a natural organic element to typically severe geometry.

The garment has menswear touches that include pinstripes in the wool skirt and tuxedo tucks through the linen bodice. The aubergine belt at the waistband echoes the feminine shape of the wearer. The wide fold back of the collar also adds a feminine touch. The side entry keeps the skirt yoke clean in front and back. The construction is executed using hand stitching and sample room techniques.

The design innovation is in the skirt with its unexpected shape in motion and at rest. This geometric shape, and its application, combined with feminine and masculine components make for a compelling silhouette.

