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## From the Closet to the Street

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**Contextual Review and Concept.** The designer's creative scholarship focuses on the creation of sustainable and marketable designs that incorporate innovative surface design and patternmaking (Whang & Haar, 2009; Whang, 2012; Whang & Yang, 2016; Whang, 2017). In contemporary fashion, fashion trends are oftentimes initiated from the street ("Fashion," n.d.). The Fairchild Dictionary of Fashion defines street style as "Fashions that originate with or are inspired by clothing worn by individuals, usually young, rather than with the fashion industry, although the contemporary fashion industry draws inspiration from street style" (Calasibeta & Tortora, p.436). Fashionable put-together street style showcased by fashion bloggers and high profile celebrities such as Kim Kardashian and Kendall Jenner ("Street Style," n.d.) inspires consumers and even higher end brand designers. Inspired by this cultural phenomenon, the designer's intent is to create a chic street style utilizing sustainable design practices including recycling, natural dyeing, and versatility.

This three-piece ensemble was created from remnant dark denim fabric from the school fashion closet and 100% silk fabrics (dupioni and chiffon) naturally dyed with an exhaust bath of cutch left over from previous design projects. This ensemble is comprised of a crop top made out of 100% silk dupioni, a high-low tunic top with silk chiffon, and a midi-length, high-waisted denim skirt. Each piece can be coordinated with other garments, providing versatile options to the wearer and reducing the need for additional dresses. For example, the denim skirt can be worn with a t-shirt, blouse, or jacket, and the crop top and tunic with various bottoms. The tunic can also be worn as a cover-up.

**Aesthetic Properties and Visual Impact.** In order to achieve an appealing and harmonious look that exemplifies both sustainability and style, the dress emphasizes the design aspects of color, line, texture, asymmetric balance, and proportion. The combination of denim's hard surface and soft silk fabrics creates an informal balance. Having two pockets on the top without the flap and another patch pocket with flap and button on the bottom left of the skirt with angle creates visual spontaneity. The high-low design of the cowl tunic also creates visual movement. The frayed pocket edges and the hem create an edgy look, while the top stitched seams with gold color thread convey a conventional denim look. The intersecting lines of the deep scoop and the halter necklines enhance the overall visual impact. The earth tones combination of dark blue and pale-burnt orange conveys calmness. Finally, the midi-length of the A-line skirt is well proportioned with the length of the high-low tunic and the crop top.

**Process and Techniques.** With limited yardage of the dark denim fabric, the designer decided to create a simple midi A-line skirt with a high-waist using a flat patternmaking technique. To create a hipper look, a separating gold zipper was installed at the center front exposed as a closure. The pockets were cut, frayed, and machine-washed prior to attaching to the skirt for both functional and decorative effect. To fray the hem of the skirt, first the length was determined, then cut in 1/4" intervals and frayed with the seam ripper.

The high-low tunic was draped using 100% silk chiffon. The back of the tunic was draped with cowl neckline and the front with deep scoop neckline. The sleeves were draped with cold shoulder, which is currently a popular design element. The cowl is also applied to the

sleeves. The neckline and the armhole were finished with bias facing, and slip stitched, and the hem was over casted, turned, and stitched.

Finally, the halter crop top was draped to coordinate well with the skirt and the scoop neckline tunic creating a visual impact around the necklines. The bodice top made with 100% silk dupioni and mandarin collar with denim fabric coincides well with the denim skirt. The crop top was lined with the same shell fabric of silk dupioni. The mandarin collar was closed with two flat hook and eyes, and the back of the bodice was closed with the cover buttons and loops.

**Cohesion.** The intent of this design submission is to create a street style look for consumers who pursue sustainable and stylish street fashion. This three-piece ensemble integrates sustainable strategies, purposeful patternmaking, and cultural inspiration to create a cohesive and visually appealing design.

**Design Contribution and Innovation.** This ensemble contributes to the apparel and textiles field and streetwear design by utilizing sustainable design practices: the garment was created with leftover and remnant fabrics from the closet. Versatility enhances consumers' emotional attachment to their outfit, creating fashion that is both more satisfying and more environmentally friendly. The juxtaposition of soft silk fabrics and hard denim combined with the cowls, a cold shoulder, a mandarin collar, and high-low design elements create a visually pleasing style.

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