

“Beaded Glory”

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Keywords:

Couture techniques
Ready to Wear

Measurements:

Jacket

Bust: 34 inches
Waist: 31.5 inches
Length center back: 32 inches
Length front: 22 inches

Pants

Waist: 29.5 inches
Hip: 36 inches
Length: 37 inches

Mentor Statement:

The ensemble “Beaded Glory” was designed and produced by a student enrolled in my junior level tailoring course spring semester of 2016. Each student was required to select a detail from a garment of their choice available from the historic costume collection housed at a local research university. Students then selected and researched their own inspiration topic and presented their topic to their fellow students and refined their designs before beginning their pattern drafting. This student was inspired by the beading found in a Bob Mackie jacket and the lapel of a Balmain jacket. Based on this information, she chose to research the origins of beading and applied this learning to her tailoring project.

Students typically refine their jacket and pant foundations prior to drafting their patterns and produce toiles to adjust fit and design details of their ensembles. This student used a polyester suiting fabric in her toile that would be the bane of any tailor’s existence but her toile looked like a high quality finished ensemble on the first try. Most students must complete between three to five toiles before finalizing their patterns but this student was ready to proceed to her garment fabric almost immediately after completing her first toile. I guided her in fit, construction, and tailoring techniques but her superior technical skills enabled her to create an outstanding embellished, tailored ensemble in a short period of time. Based on this information, sponsoring her for this call was an simple decision.

Design Statement

This ensemble began as a research assignment of the tailored ensembles housed at a local historic costume collection. I studied Bob Mackie and Olivier Rousteing beading techniques as well as the details of a vintage Balmain jacket and combined these inspirations with a logo created as part of a branding project in another course. To meet the course requirement for this project I chose to use black 100% wool suiting that easily supports the weight of the glass bugle beads, pearlized seed beads and sequins. The black wool also accents the silver beading and makes the beading design stand out. The element of negative space is used in the beading application placed under the reversed lapel inspired by the Balmain jacket.

I developed the pattern for my beading design by using a logo design on the front and back of the jacket and pant pocket edging. My suit’s aesthetic properties are its beaded, hand sewn craftsmanship, traditional tailoring techniques,

slim sleeve and pant silhouette, and generous pleated peplum. The combination of the traditional and severe tailoring techniques and the extravagant beading was very time consuming and was the first experience I had with both genres. Mackie's extravagant work is found in the cut of the jacket, the generous tail of the peplum, and conspicuous embellishment.

