

Eternal Perspective: Synthesis of Faith and Digital Printing in Creative Apparel Design

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Introduction. For the youth of today, there is a very prominent focus on the here and now; living in the moment. While this may be a good practice in stints, constantly living in the moment without any regard for the future may set a person up to face eternal circumstances. As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), the designer believes that the actions we make now will ultimately impact our happiness and progression throughout this life and in the afterlife. This apparel design collection combined origami techniques and engineered printing to create an inspiring and faith-filled line entitled *Eternal Perspective*. The design process model used was created by LaBat and Sokoloski (1999) including: (a) problem definition and research, (b) creative exploration, and (c) implementation; and the designer included a conclusion step.

Implementation. *Step 1: problem definition and research.* Individuals holding a present-time perspective focus on present pleasure and tend to take more risks and act impulsively. Conversely, future-focused individuals cognitively project their future selves and induce future-related behavioral tendencies (Cheng, 2012). According to the data collected by Ying-Yao Cheng et al. this future focus can improve your financial decisions and exercise levels, and decrease your impulse toward hedonic activities (which often lead to addictive behavior). This line is ready-to-wear, targeted to 20-35 year old females pursuing sophisticated designs, intricate detail, and who are seeking to maintain a positive eternal perspective.

Step 2: creative exploration. The line was inspired by the designer's faith and the importance of always maintaining an eternal perspective. The main print motif used on two of the garments is from stained glass windows on the San Diego LDS temple. "Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally" (The First Presidency, 1995). The sunflower print is a visual representation of the Fibonacci sequence which is a never-ending mathematical sequence that manifests in nature and many believe to be the fingerprint of a divine creator.

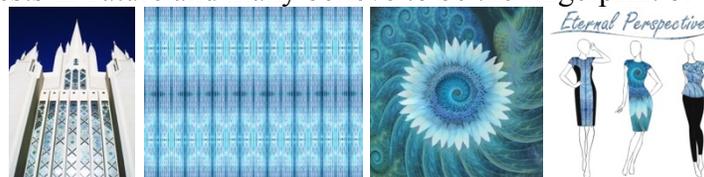


Figure 1. Original temple picture, digital prints created, and CAD Illustrations of the garments.

Step 3: implementation. All three outfits were created using a combination of draping and flat pattern. Both prints were inspired by eternal ideas represented by images and then modified in Adobe Photoshop to create the finished print. The original image of the stained glass window was altered by first warping the image until the window pane muntins were

parallel. Next the image was copied and reflected both horizontally and vertically to create the repeating stripe with mirrored tints and shades. The color was altered through a series of filters, and the hues and saturation were altered until a striking motif was produced. It was printed out on cotton twill and cotton sateen and then cut in the shape of the pattern. The sunflower print started with an image of the center of a sunflower, a separate image of sunflower petals, and an artistic depiction of the Fibonacci sequence with other “golden spirals” spinning off of it. The three images were layered together with varying opacities in order to create a striking visual representation of a naturally occurring eternal sequence. The patterning process for the garments were completed using flat pattern technique to create Fibonacci sequence. Lines for the dart placements were plotted as tangent lines from the spiral. The sunflower motif was “engineered” to fit directly onto the pattern pieces in Illustrator, so that the sunflower motif would match up once the 29 darts were sewn.



Figure 2. Digitized engineered print and three finished garments

Conclusions. With the initial goals in mind to represent the designer’s beliefs, experiment with origami techniques in apparel, and utilize engineered printing to create visually striking images across style lines, the designer contends that *Eternal Perspective* has done just that. Each individual garment is awe-inspiring and brings to the viewer a hope for things yet to come.

The presentation will include: (a) explanation of the background research, framework and design process, (b) professional photographs of the completed ensembles, and (c) outcomes of the evaluation and overview of how the outcomes will impact future design projects. The significance of this digital design work is how a design model can be a foundation for the creation of a design line and how to use visual elements to communicate emotionally compelling concepts.

References

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