



From Within

Beth Yang and Laura Kane (Mentor), Mount Mary University

Ready to Wear, Couture Techniques, Functional Clothing

B 32, W 26, H 36, L 35

Mentor Statement: Beth completed this project in my Tailoring course. She was inspired by her Hmong heritage and a vintage Hmong fabric she brought from home. She created a garment that celebrates her heritage, has a number of traditional tailoring techniques, and a modern silhouette. Beth went above and beyond the call of the assignment, adding in a quilted lining, several welt pockets with faux leather welts, and bound zippered sleeves. Beth constantly challenged herself through the project, and worked through every obstacle she encountered. I served as a guide through the process, providing feedback on jacket construction, material selection, and interlinings. This jacket later became a focal point of her junior collection. The work she completed for her collection earned her the Outstanding Construction Award at the annual student fashion show.

Designer Statement: This tailored coat is an Italian black wool blend with vintage Hmong embroidered textile and faux leather details. This coat has a motorcycle styled zipper, notched collar with metal snaps, asymmetrical hem, Hmong embroidered sleeves and yoke, three welt pockets and machine stitched quilted lining. This coat was designed to keep the wearer warm in the cold Midwest winters, but still look stylish and put together. This coat was also designed thinking of a Hmong American women who could bring her culture with her by never forgetting the people who brought her to where is she and forever embrace her heritage.

This tailored coat includes many different modern and traditional elements to create an attractive fusion. When looking at this coat, the eyes are drawn to the vibrant hand embroidered Hmong fabric on the sleeves and yoke. This vintage Hmong fabric holds a great history with sun faded spots, stains, and uneven stitches. Although these are considered defects and unflattering, I see it as long hours spent completing the textile in the hot sun and hand crafted mastery. It demonstrates the hard work and handed down art throughout the generations. Another strong aspect is the notched collar and asymmetrical hem that adds a nice contrast of modern and vintage details.

The entire coat was draped onto a formed and later flat patterned to enlarge the size to be more boxy. The Hmong fabric was precisely matched up to be symmetrical on both sides of the sleeves. The most rigorous process was creating the quilted lining. The quilted lining consists of five yards of a black polyester fabric and 3 yards of cotton batting. Before the quilted stitches were made, I graphed out all the lines and then sandwiched the materials together by using a temporary spray adhesive. Then machine stitched all the quilting to add a more luxurious look and dimension. Another element that took

time to master was the notched collar. In the beginning, the notched collar was puckered and bulky. It challenged me to really achieve a professional looking collar. I took my time to hand baste the collar first, machine stitch, press seams, clip seam allowances and pound edges flat. It took a lot of meticulous work, but was worth the labor.

This coat has a great sense of cohesion by really showcasing the purpose of the coat with incorporating meaningful textile that tells a story. Each part of this coat was made for a purpose and the mixing of modern and vintage elements allows a Hmong American woman to embrace her past and present.

