

Cool vs. Cruel Entry  
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Process book:

Inspiration for the garment

I had multiple avenues of inspiration for my garment. First, and most surprising was the inspiration I received while at my "day job". Our company sells Tyvek suits to customers (along with a ton of other items) and I looked at the fabric and thought "hey, I could do something with that...I bet it sews and drapes fabulously!" – and it actually did, with a Microtex needle. ☺ My other inspiration came from my extensive research in reading fashion and other design magazines (a skill I've honed since birth, ha ha), the book "Extreme Textiles" by Matilda McQuaid, and multiple shows on the Science and Discovery channels. Through this I have learned much about the recent innovations in textile design and how these new textiles are utilized in apparel to either serve a specific purpose (such as a protective garment) or to make a design statement (unique form or movement) previously impossible with conventional fabrics.

Inspiration for the materials used

My goal was to utilize a textile that seemed unlikely as one that would be considered in apparel design; one that I'd never worked with in fabricating a garment, and apply the skills and design techniques I have learned during my education at the Art Institute to said textile with the goal of creating an aesthetically pleasing, innovative garment. I also thought it would be hilarious to take a size 6X Tyvek suit used in clean rooms and other areas where one needs to protect their garment and body and make it into a tiny size 6 garment perfect for evening wear. However, Tyvek doesn't breathe so I wouldn't wear it out dancing.

List of all materials

I have attached a descriptive brochure from the manufacturer of Tyvek, DuPont, that describes the properties of this textile and the different ways in which it is utilized.

Short bio on what you have learned about alternatives to using animal fur

I found out that, not surprisingly, there's a lot of research and development occurring at present to improve both what used to be called "faux fur" and completely unrelated types of textiles, with the result of these new synthetics having the look and feel of real fur with the ease of care of washable fibers. It's a win-win situation for everyone, animal or human!

What I plan to do once I earn my degree

Design clothing with technology built into the garment. Of course, I'll need some innovative textiles to handle that...but I'm confident I'll know where to find them. On the side I'll also do some costume work...the more unusual the material, the better I like it and the more likely I am to make something fun out of it!