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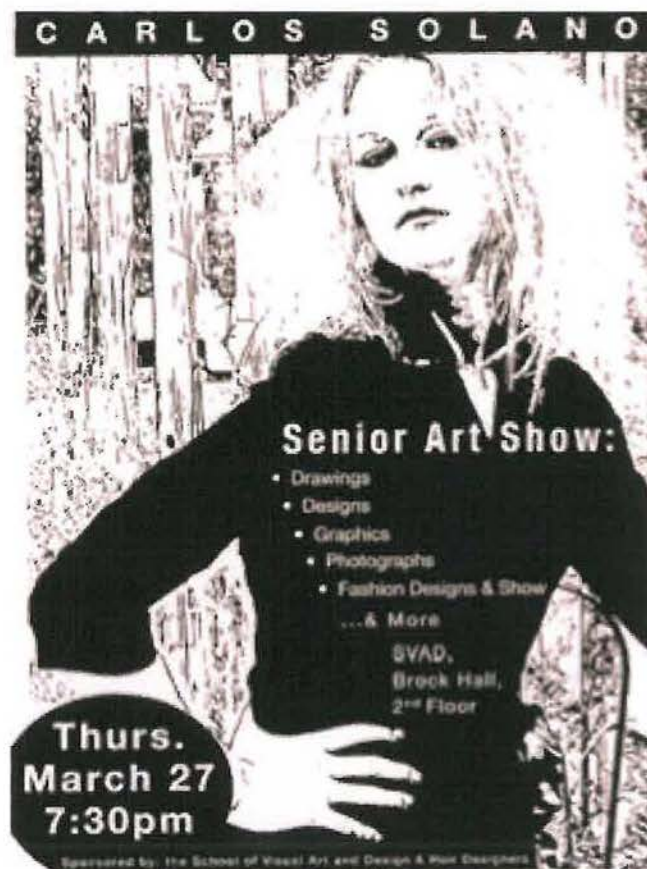
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# Casual Elegance: The Everyday Manipulation of Design Elements for Physical, Social, and Spiritual Benefits



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## Designer Statement: Casual Elegance

As a Southern Scholar, my Senior Project deals with a subject that is not widely talked about: the elegance of everyday. I believe that there are some design elements which can be manipulated on a daily basis to achieve Casual Elegance, and thus gain physical, social, and spiritual benefits. As a designer graduating with a B.A. in Art, I want to point out specific designs that could be used to achieve the level of elegance and sophistication to which I am referring.

As an art major I had a show at the School of Visual Art and Design Gallery, located on the second floor of Brock Hall. In this show I tried to demonstrate some of the works of art that express my personal concept of casual elegance. These works of art include fashion garments designed and made, a display of graphical designs, illustrations, portraits, drawings, design-process panels, and a slide show of design elements in architecture.

The purpose of these works of art was to convey my philosophy as a designer. My concept of an elegant design was strengthened by my internship in New York City, working under clothing designer Rachel Roy. I believe in living elegantly everyday as part of one's identity. It is my purpose to convey that casual elegance, or being sophisticated, can be a continuous way of life. To me, casual elegance is striving to achieve an elegant lifestyle that includes the fulfillment of events that could help improve one's life physically, socially and spiritually.

Even when we—as humans—are not perfect, we can choose the designs for our lives to accomplish the stated purposes. I want to show that casual elegance is living a purposefully design-driven lifestyle; it is an attitude lived out every day. Such design elements can come from inspiration sources that comprise of color choices, fabrics, textures, weights, cuts and embellishments. I will try to describe such elements as they are shown.

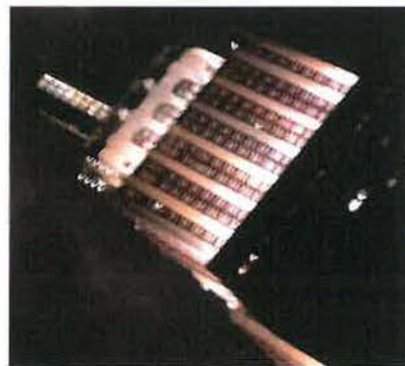
-Carlos Solano



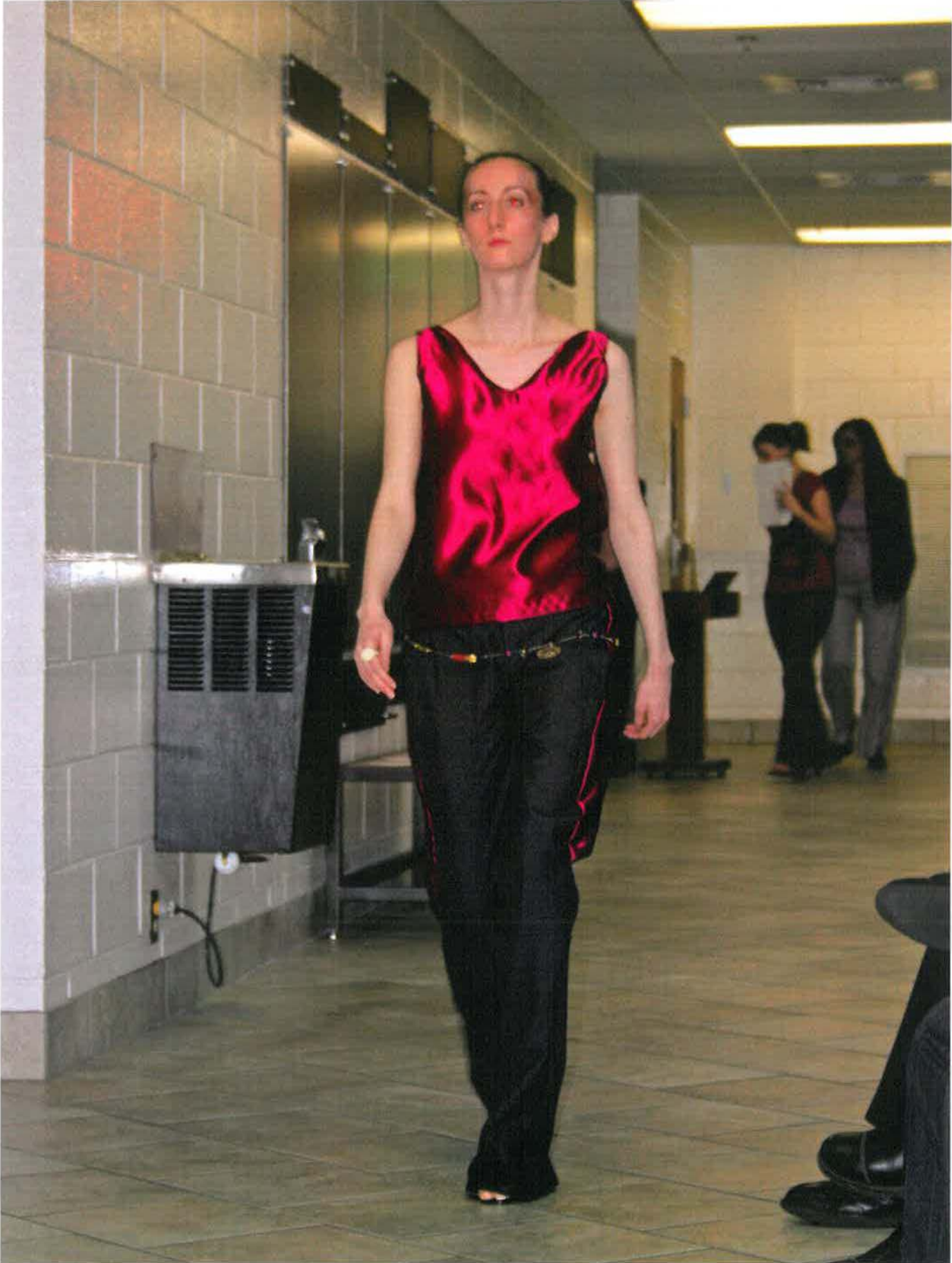


Carmen Blouse  
CSSS0801  
Venoni Wrap Skirt  
CSSS0802

These garments, when worn together, symbolize elegance. White and black play a subtle rivalry without being overwhelming. The inspiration comes from the delicateness of white against the elegance of the black. The horizontal stripes converge in the front by merging and creating an illusion of movement. The light cotton in the blouse plays with the lightness of the jersey skirt to create flow and a soft look that is pliable to the skin. This elegant softness is contrasted with the heavy angles of the skirt as a way of keeping the garment casual enough for a summer day.







Zoarel Slacks  
CSSS0803  
Ernie Sleeveless Shirt  
CSSS0804

Wool is strong and heavy, but it can be softened to a single layer. Silk is soft and feminine. These two fabrics together contrast the strength and durability of the dark grey wool with the elegance of the red silk. Red is vibrant. It is the color of passion. This tint of red in the silk and the V-neck cut make this garment feminine. The wool slacks have been purposefully elongated to enhance the elegance of the figure. There is the urban element of verticality in the tall contrasted with the elegance of silk. It presents a sense of stability with the touch of softness due to the sleeveless shirt.







Zoarel Trench Coat Dress  
CSSS0805

Green is the color of all-things nature, represented here for such spring/summer collection.

This shade of green is complementary against skin tones due to its sophisticated natural characteristics. This green is not dark and heavy, neither is it too light. The lightness of the 100% cotton fabric makes it easy and wearable on a daily basis. Yet, the strength of the silhouette makes the design elegant. The look of the dress retains a modern feel, yet it is casual because of its three-fourth sleeves and belt.





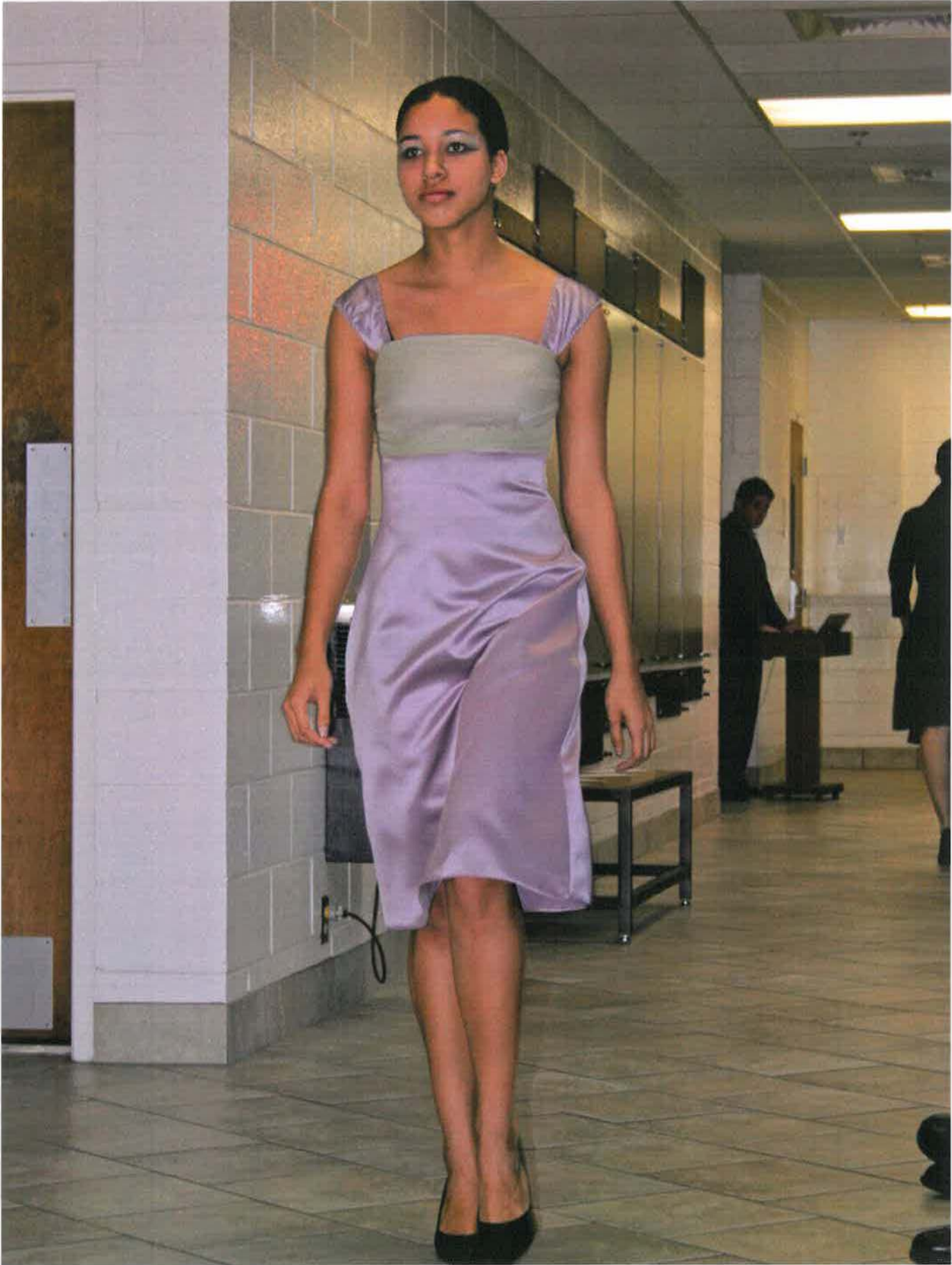




Zoarel Pants  
CCSS0806  
Ernie Blouse  
CSSS0807

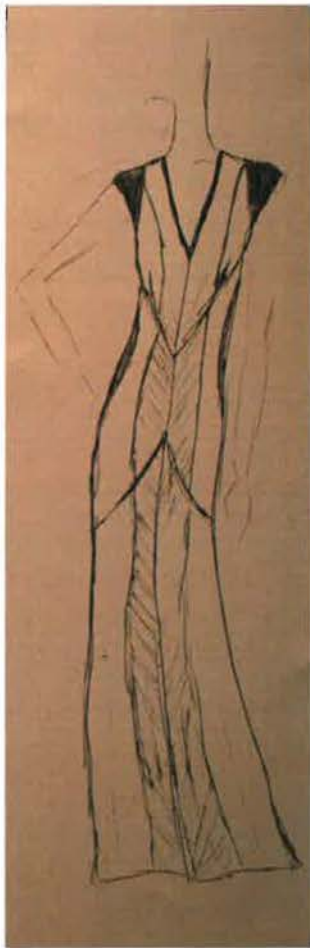
Contemporary clothing designs have almost eliminated the inclusion of pleats. This gives a streamlined look of ease and wearability. Cotton continues to be used because of it is a light, cool, and breathable fiber. In this outfit the element of elongation is enhanced because of the shorter pant cut. This effect is achieved because the eye visually travels beyond the pant line. This look creates a sense of casualness in comparison to a full-length slack. The green and white fabrics create a soft contrast that is elegant.



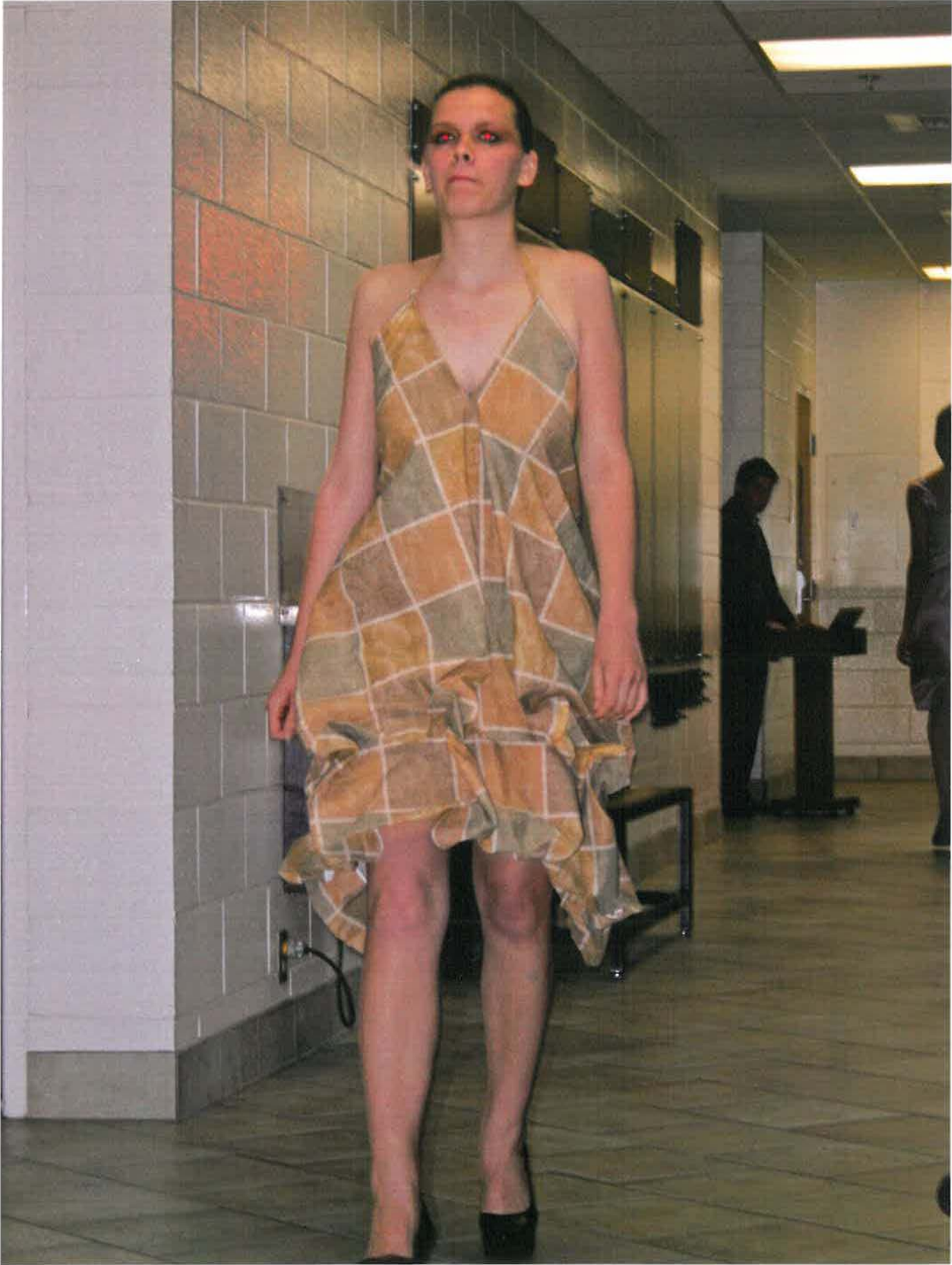


Michelle Dress  
CCSS0808

High waists are perceived as royal. By combining the high waist with the softness of the lavender, this dress becomes elegant. Lavender brings to mind softness and femininity. This design is relaxing to wear on a summer day. The short sleeves and the details in the dress add femininity to the look, yet maintaining its elegance. Dutchess satin (one-face) is an elegant fabric that is soft to the skin, yet is flows with movement. The rayon mesh adds detail and casual visual interest.





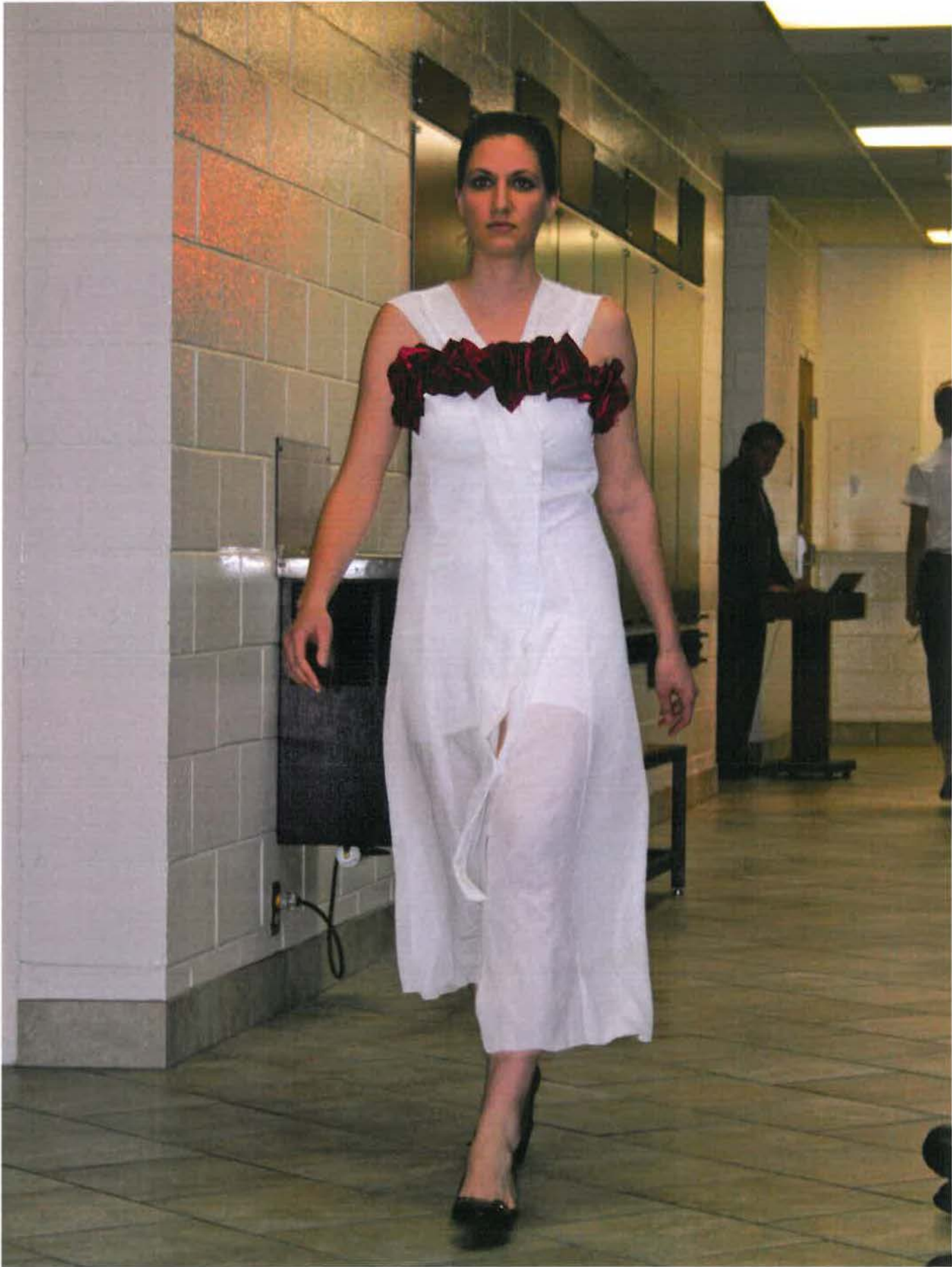


## Venoni Opera Gown CCSS0809

French Haute Couture is sometimes symbolized by volume; big voluptuous garments with a lot of details. To portray casual elegance, the softer, more quiet look is shown in this garment. The double-fiber cotton fabric tones down the elements of the French Couture, yet gives it strength in the weight of the fabric. The printed pattern relaxes the over-the-top look. Elegant volume is created through a “bubble” effect that helps keep the garment feminine. The garment was constructed totally by hand, as a French Haute Couture element, still this element is understated to keep the design casual.









## Carmen Dress CCSS0810

The design goal behind this garment is to experiment with design elements to create a casual look. The double layers of white spandex and cotton/polyester overlay help create flow in the garment. This piece was meant to have an extreme high waistline to visually add interest and to create deeper angles in the sleeves' areas. The band of red silk is designed to visually elongate the lower body, and to function as a cohesive element with other pieces of the collection. "Bubble" stitches are sown into the fabric to create this effect, and to add an elegant touch of femininity, without leaving the casual realm.







Zoarel Dress  
CCSS0811

For this garment, the element of elegance is portrayed in the high-neckline. The neckpiece was sown by hand to create delicate and feminine details. No jewelry was to be worn with the garment, instead, a decorative piece of fabric was stitched to create the same elegant effect of real jewelry. The golden rayon is very light and reflects light from the stitches' folds. The brown rayon, an actual lining, flows with movement due to the lightness of the fabric, and it reflects light because of the synthetic fibers. The result is a simple and light, but elegant dress, that enhances and elongates the body with a majestic feeling.







Venoni Dress  
CCSS0812

The Venoni dress, like in previous looks, is characterized by the extreme angles in V's. By using the dark brown rayon lining fabric, one is able to create a flow and a soft elegance that balances out with the strength of the angles. One can think of the motion created by wind as it blows on a silk garment. The rayon works just as well, as it adds brightness to the fabric. The color brown is subtle against other spring/summer colors, thus resulting in an elegant, but still casual color.









## Zoarel Gown CCSS0813

The empire waist (high location) is the central element of this garment. By being incorporated it creates a sense of sophistication and formality in the garment. The brown rayon lining is used to ease the weight of this look, with the softer fabric. Symmetrical pleats were added to create volume around the gown, thus allowing the garment to “flow”. The delicate fabric, the subtle color, the V-neck, and the sleeveless upper body, all add up to create a garment that personifies elegance. It is the kind of elegance that is wearable everyday, that is light without losing the sophisticated touch.





Designer Carlos Solano with the full line-up of his Spring/Summer 2008 Collection

**Southern Scholars Honors Program  
Senior Project Proposal Information Sheet**



Name Carlos E. Solano

Date Dec 19 07

Major BA. Art

A significant scholarly project, involving research, writing, or special performance, appropriate to the major in question, is ordinarily completed the senior year. The project is expected to be of sufficiently high quality to warrant a grade of "A" and to justify public presentation.

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Under the guidance of a faculty advisor, the Senior Project should be an original work, should use primary sources when applicable, should have a table of contents and works cited page, should give convincing evidence to support a strong thesis, and should use the methods and writing style appropriate to the discipline.

**The completed project, to be turned in in duplicate, must be approved by the Honors Committee in consultation with the student's supervising professor four weeks prior to the last day of class for the semester the project is turned in.** Please include the advisor's name on the title page. The 2-3 hours of credit for this project is usually done as directed study or in a research class.

**NOTE-Senior Project Proposal Due Date:** The senior project proposal is due in the Honors Program Director's office two weeks after the beginning of the semester the project will be completed. The proposal should be a detailed description of the Honors Project's purpose and proposed methodology.

Keeping in mind the above senior project description, please describe in as much detail as you can the project you will undertake. Attach a separate sheet of paper.

Signature of faculty advisor [Signature]

Expected date of completion April 4/08

**NOTE:** An advisor's final project approval does not guarantee that the Honors Faculty Committee will automatically approve the project. The Honors Faculty Committee has the final vote.

Approval to be signed by faculty advisor when the project is completed:

This project has been completed as planned (date) Yes

This is an "A" project Yes

This project is worth 2-3 hours of credit Yes

Advisor's Final Signature [Signature] Date: 4-2-08

Chair, Honors Committee Mark Peach Date Approved: 1 May 08

Dear Advisor,

(1) Please write your **final** evaluation on the project on the reverse side of this page. Comment on the characteristics that make this "A" quality work.

(2) Please include a paragraph explaining your specific academic credentials for advising this Senior Project.