

In Fashion

An Architectural Investigation into Clothing Design

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This thesis establishes itself on the backs of architects such as Lucy McRae, Rem Koolhaas, Virgil Abloh, and others who have used the medium of fashion to explore architectural ideas. Their success in this complementary design field is heavily dependent upon their acknowledgment of the body as the origin of all design, whether furniture, an article of clothing, or a building. Therefore, this thesis is situated at the intersection of two disciplines, establishing itself among the works of great architects and those of the major fashion house, Prada.

Prada initiated their collaboration, "Prada Invites," which reimagined their signature fabric, nylon. Their Spring/Summer Runway of 2019 enlisted three leading female architects, Elizabeth Diller, Kazuyo Sejima, and Cini Boeri, with a collection created by women, for women to expand upon the brand's ongoing fascination with multifaceted representations of contemporary femininity that toe the line between garments and travel accessories.

The success of this endeavor relied upon these architects' lived experiences as women and their architectural backgrounds. The mutual embracing of these subjects solidified the countless parallels between them, such as that between buildings and clothing with respect to materiality, performance, detailing, tectonics, surfacing, and form. There are numerous other techniques and qualities that apply to both disciplines; of particular interest are folding, seaming, and formlessness, as each allows for transformation.

This thesis positions itself among the work of these powerful women and continues the initiative set forth by Prada—to craft and utilize nylon to provide commentary on modern women and the diverse lives we live. Though it's been long considered that women cannot achieve work-life balance, we have constantly proven that there is such a thing as balance but that it doesn't necessarily need to be separated. What if the two worlds intermingled a bit more? This project achieves this through design of a garment and an accessory that serve both work and social environments—a blazer that unveils a dress, and a briefcase that collapses to reveal a clutch. No version of wear is limited in use; they can be mixed and matched to the heart's desire.

Found Objects

Advisors: Fayyad, Miller, Rodriguez

Image: Collaged Pattern Cuts of a Blazer and Dress

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