

SIREN OF THE DEEP

July 2005

Design Inspiration

This ensemble was designed for LJ Designs *Ordinary to Extraordinary* Design Challenge, which required the use of an LJ Designs pattern. The colors of the chiffon fabric, the construction details in the pattern that I chose, and a photograph of a chiffon dress modeled underwater inspired a free-form interpretation with loose fly-away panels that are minimally attached to each other. The lining, which is a necessity, becomes part of the design by providing an underlayer, cut to a slightly longer length, that adds visual complexity to the garment. The top layer moves almost independently of the underlayer. The embellishment is not surface decoration, but rather an integral part of the garment that changes as the wearer moves.

Fabrics

Top and Skirt: 100 % polyester chiffon and double georgette.

Embellishments

Top and Skirt: all edges narrow hemmed with 100 % cotton machine embroidery thread.

Patterns

LJ Designs Asymmetrical Tunic and Skirt.

Special Sewing Techniques

The top pattern has been modified to include a double-layer neckline flounce and the upper and underlayers of both the skirt and top have been cut to different lengths. For the construction, in order to achieve a smooth transition from seams to hems, the panels of the skirt and top are seamed and narrow-hemmed in one step. First, the edges are finished with a narrow serged stitch. For sections to be seamed, the serged edge is folded over once and the seams are stitched right next to the serging, giving a very narrow seam with about a 4mm seam allowance that is already folded and finished. The edges to be hemmed are folded over twice and then the seam allowances are stitched flat and the hems are edge-stitched all in one step.

Exhibitions and Awards

First Place, Category B, LJ Designs Ordinary to Extraordinary Design Challenge, July 2005.