



CONTENIS



My name is Blen Birbirsa. I am an emerging fashion designer based in Sydney. After earning my Bachelor's degree in Fashion Design and Textiles from the University of Technology Sydney, I had the privilege of working with several prominent fashion houses, including Pallas Couture and Leah Da Gloria. It was during these experiences that I developed a deep passion for couture, particularly for the meticulous attention to detail and the art of garment construction and fit. I also ventured into the fast fashion industry as a print designer, which took me to Guangzhou, China, where I sourced materials and collaborated with manufacturers.

In 2020, I decided to focus on cultivating my own design identity and pursuing my dream of becoming an independent fashion designer.

My design philosophy is rooted in three principles: beauty, truth, and wisdom, inspired by the Renaissance philosophy. Beauty is a universal language that transcends explanation, understood instinctively by all. Through my work, I aim to embody the beauty found in nature, art, and architecture, expressed through shape, silhouette, texture, and colour. Truth in my designs is reflected in their originality and authenticity. Wisdom comes through in the techniques and methodologies I apply—whether in patternmaking, garment construction, or intricate detailing and embellishment. I find inspiration in transforming unconventional materials and affordable fabrics into high-end luxury pieces.

To me, fashion is a form of art, and art should be meaningful and purposeful. Through my designs, I aspire to inspire and evoke emotion, creating garments that move the hearts and minds of those who wear them.

When I decided to enter the Melbourne Cup Emerging Designer Competition, I knew I wanted to present a look that would stand out and fully embody my design identity. Considering the spring season, I was drawn to lightweight, natural fabrics like silk or cotton, paired with warm colors such as dusty pink, off-white, and neutrals. My focus was on both shape and texture-I aimed to accentuate certain parts of the body and highlight intricate details.

I envisioned creating texture through fabric manipulation and embroidery techniques. I also wanted to incorporate sculptural elements that would complement the natural body shape without overwhelming the dress.

Instead of my usual approach of using heavy, structured forms, I aimed for a softer, more fluid sculpture that would blend seamlessly with the overall design.

Pleating was a key feature of my concept. I drew inspiration from nature, architecture, and art, searching for shapes reminiscent of pleated garments. I also wanted to explore alternative methods of pleating, considering how I could create pleats in my own way without professional equipment. One of my key inspirations was the pink oyster mushroom; its soft, dense, and organic texture perfectly captured the effect I aimed to recreate.

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support the outer decorative elements, ensuring they beautifully showcased without sacrificing comfort or fit.















