

The Art of Crafting Cigars





THE ART OF CRAFTING CIGARS

Statement:

What is a Cigar? It is a rolled bundle of dried and fermented tobacco Leaves made to be smoked and come in a variety of shapes and sizes. In this collection you will see uses of techniques and colors inspired by the handmade craft. The collection gives off the sense of antiqueness, tradition and innovation through out its designs. Step by step of creating cigars was also the basic formula on how the collection was put together. The Cuban culture is also a strong representation throughout the line and therefore it is a personal love letter to the designer's heritage as well.

Origin Of Cigar Making



Although the origins of cigar smoking are unknown, Cigar smoking was first observed by the European explorers when encountering the indigenous Taino people of Cuba in 1492. Following the arrival of the europeans with the first wave of the European colonization, Tobacco became one of the primary products fueling European colonialism and also became a driving factor in the incorporation of african slave labor. In the 18th and 19th Century smoking cigars became very common and cigar making became an important industry. The main locations where cigar factories were located were Cuba, Tampa, Miami and New York City.



Steps on Making a Cigar

Step 1 Cultivation of Tobacco

Tobacco plants are seeded indoors and transplanted into fields after 6 to 10 weeks. - The plants take several months to mature in the fields.



Step 2 Curing

After harvesting, the tobacco leaves are cured once they become dried brown or yellow in color. To begin the curing process, the harvested plants are strung to narrow strips of wood called laths. The laths are hung from the ceiling of a well-ventilated curing barn.



Step 3 Fermenting

After the leaves are cured, they are sorted by color and size. The leaves are tied into bundles and are stored in boxes for a period of 6 months to 5 years. The leaves undergo chemical changes during this period referred to as fermentation. During fermentation, the aroma and taste of the tobacco develops.



Step 4 Stripping

The filler leaves must have their main vein (or stem) removed, or else the cigar will not burn evenly. The stripped leaves are wrapped in bales and stored for further fermentation. Just before the leaves are ready to be manufactured into cigars, they are steamed to restore lost humidity, and sorted again.



Step 5 Wrapping

Wrapping is the most difficult step. The worker takes the partially completed cigar and places it on the wrapper leaf. With a special rounded knife called a chaveta, the worker trims off any irregularities from the filler. The worker rolls the wrapper leaf around the filler and binder three and a half times, securing the end of the wrapper with vegetable paste.



Steps on Making a Cigar

Step 6 Hand rolling

Fine cigars are rolled by hand. The filler on hand rolled cigars must be packed evenly for the cigar to burn smoothly. The wrapper is applied in an even spiral around the cigar.



Step 7 Inspecting

The finished cigars are inspected in numerous ways. The cigars are collected from the rollers in bundles of fifty and are labeled with the following information:

- "Vitola" or size number.
- The name of the "tabaquero," or cigar maker. The date



Step 6.5 Machine rolling

The majority of cigars are made by machine.

One worker feeds tobacco leaves onto a feed belt between guide bars that are adjusted for the length of cigar desired. The machine bunches the leaves, forming the filler.

A second worker places binder leaf (or HTU) onto the binder die. The leaf is held down by suction, and the machine cuts it to the proper size. The filler is then dropped onto the binder die. At that point, the machine rolls the binder around the filler.

A third worker then places the wrapper leaf (or HTL) on to a wrapper die. The partially completed cigar drops onto the wrapper, and the machine rolls the wrapper around the cigar. A fourth worker inspects the completed cigars and places



Step 8 Storing

In the marriage rooms, the cigars are stored in cedar bins, cedar drawers or cedar shelves. The temperature and humidity conditions are kept at an ideal level so that "the cigars can be stored for three weeks to a year. As the wrapper dries, it shrinks, compresses, and solidifies the cigar, making it a denser and slower-burning finished product.



Step 9 Seasoning

The second aspect of the aging process is the inter-marrying of the cigars within each bundle and among all the bundles in the seasoning room. Tobacco absorbs the oils and aromas of anything around it. As the cigars remain in this room over a period of time they absorb each other's oils and aromas. All of these cigars will then taste and smell alike.



Visit to Cuba Cigar Tobacco Co.



The Bello family always had a tradition of cultivating their land. The roots of their Cuban tobacco heritage reach into the 19th century when Don Bello, the first of Bello tobacconists, left Canary Islands in search for better soil and climate conditions. After exploring the country of Cuba he settled in Las Villas, a region very well known for producing the finest filler and binder tobacco on the island. Following his success in growing and processing tobacco he decided to start a cigar production on his own.

In 1896 he established his first cigar factory named after the place that became his new home. Tabacalera Las Villas started to produce private cigar labels for other tobacconists as well as the first family house brand Bello.

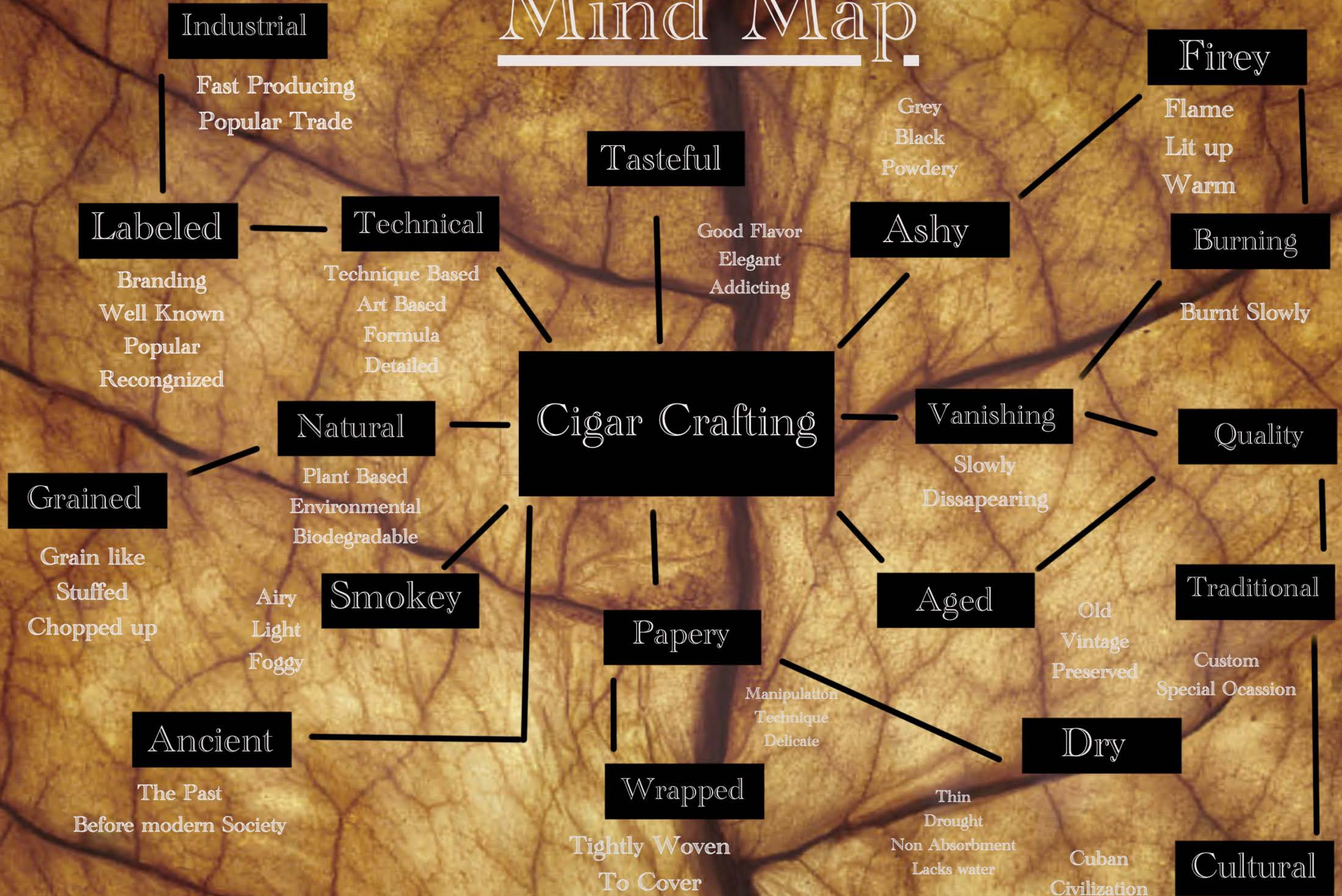
After the Cuban Revolution Most of the family members immigrated to the United States of America, settling in Miami where Don Pedro Bello together with his son Pedro "Peter" Bello Jr. slowly began to revive their Cuban cigar tradition.

In 1994 Bello family opened their factory in Little Havana, Miami and began manufacturing Havana Sunrise, one of the most prominent cigar brands of the 90's Cigar Boom. Bello family rose to become the largest manufacturer of premium cigars in the USA what brought them international recognition and earned their place among the cigar elite.

Cuba Tobacco Cigar Co. still remains a family owned and family run business with cigar factories in Little Havana, Miami, USA and Esteli, Nicaragua, Central America. Bello family, now up to it's 5th generation, is staying true to their old standards using their knowledge and experience to produce some of the finest cigars in the world today.



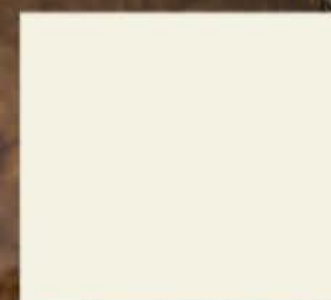
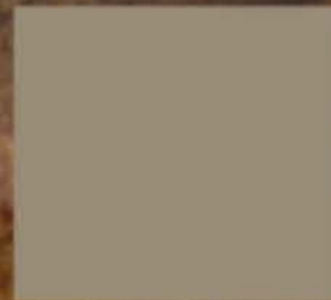
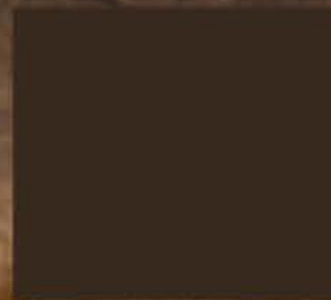
Mind Map





Fall 2023

Fall



Fabrics & Color Story



Striped pattern is
a reflection on
different
decorative
techniques used
to finish a cigar.



Paper cut
technique.
Layered fabric cut
into organic
shapes to show
how the edges are
on raw tobacco.

Coffee dyed fabric.
To make wrinkle
effect it was first
dyed and then
sculpted into shape
then dried.
Influenced on how
the dried tobacco
leaves look.



Burnt technique
to represent the
purpose of the
cigar which is to
light up and
smoke.



Textiles



Pleating is used in the drape to emphasize how the cigar has tight wraps layered on each other.



3D Explorations



The organic spread of the fabric is manipulated to look like the dried leaf of the tobacco which has many wrinkles and folds.



The cowel neck is inspired by the layering and stuffing of the crushed leaves in the cigar.

3D Explorations



Fall Sketches





Fall Sketches

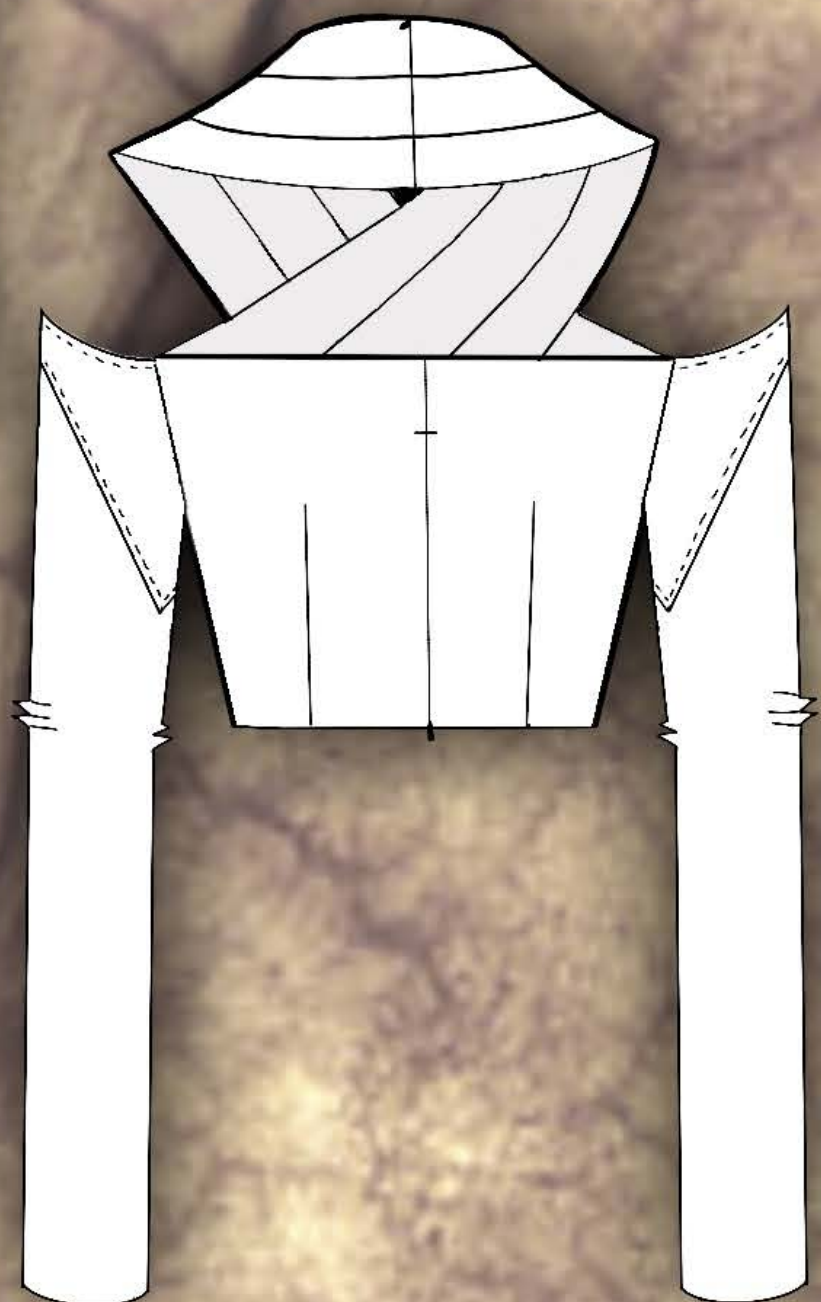
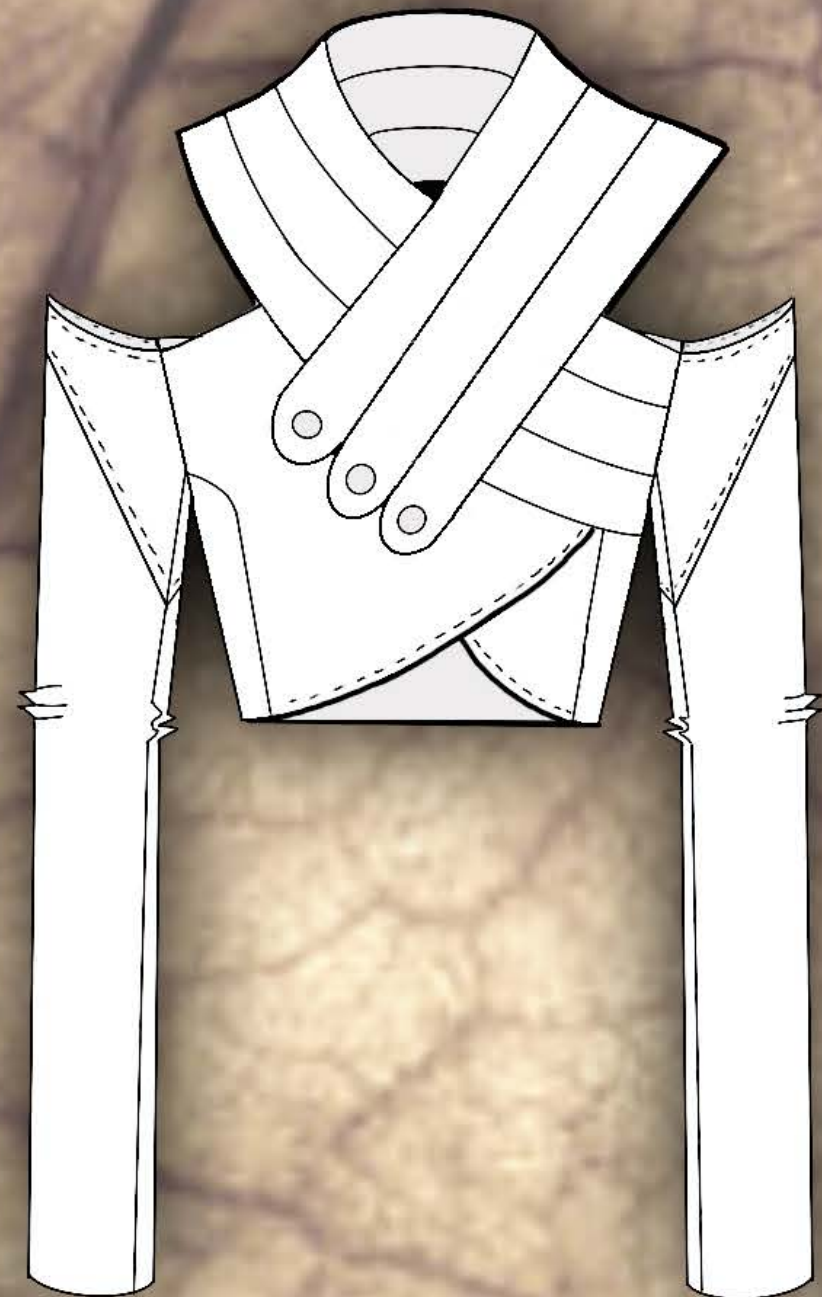
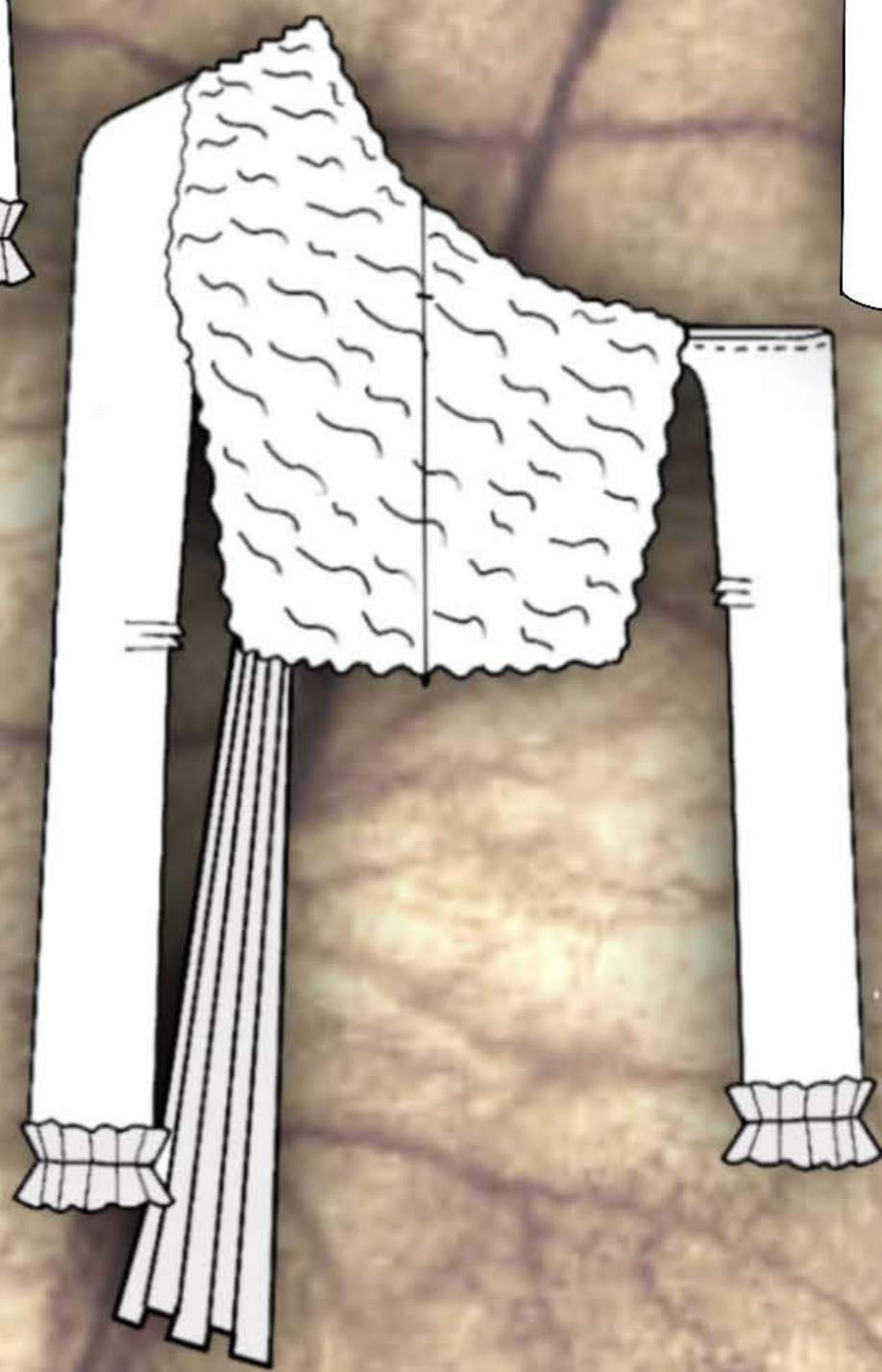
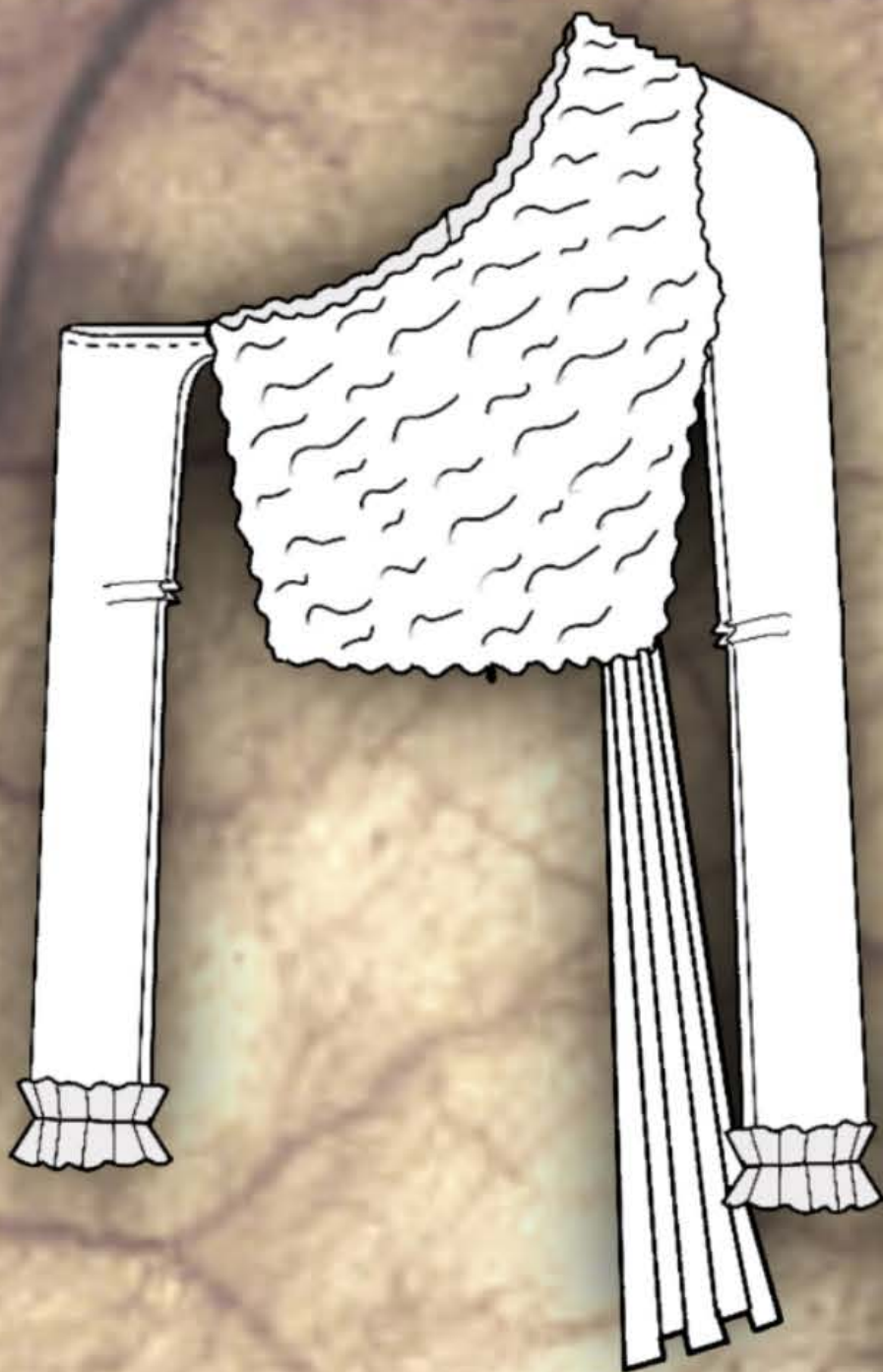


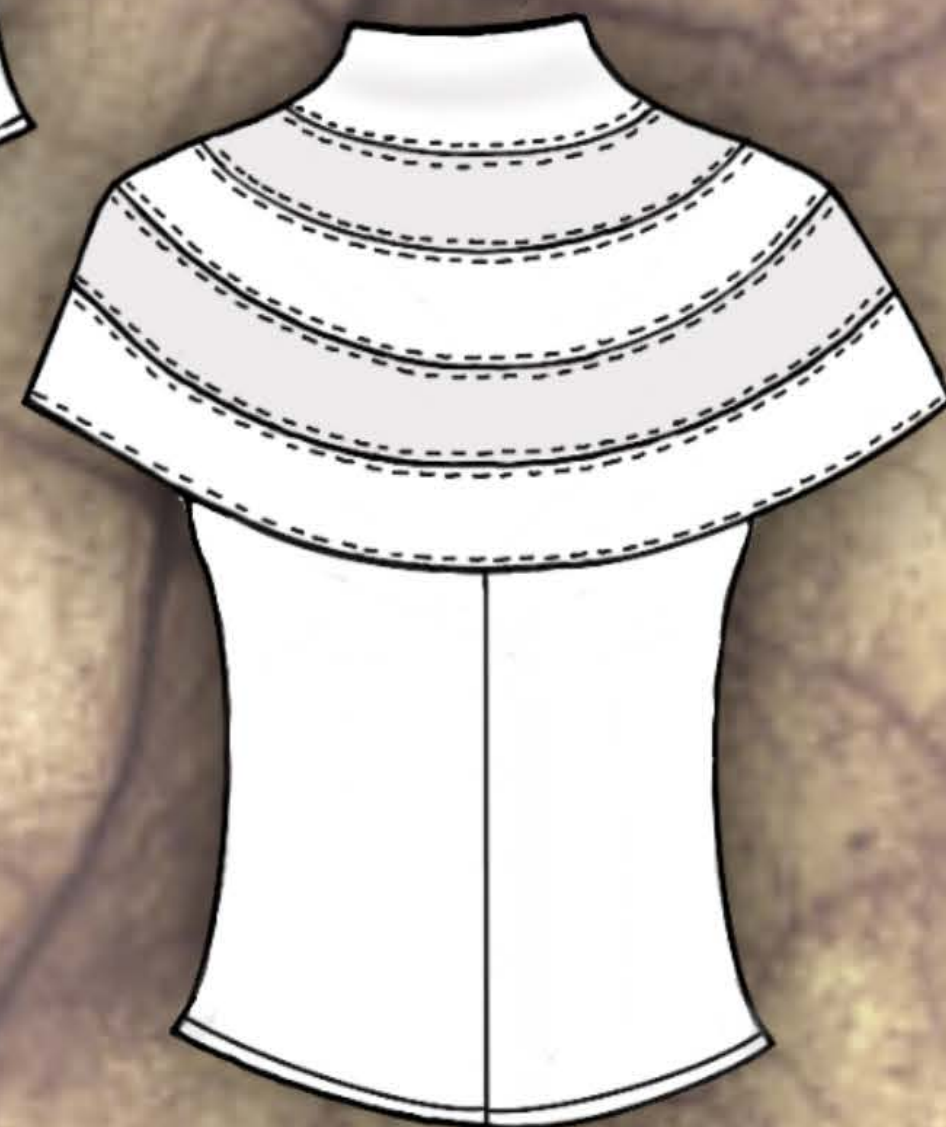
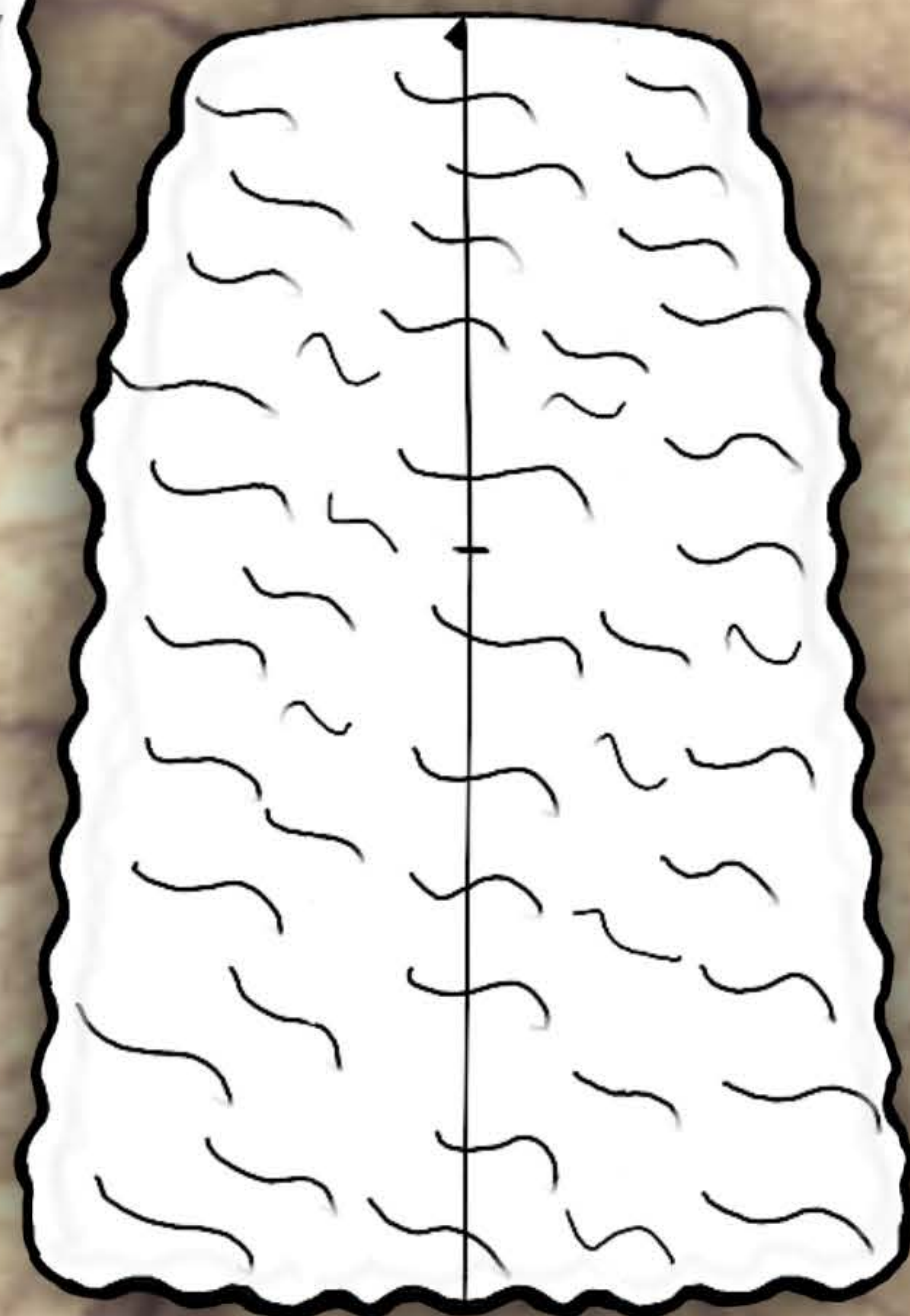
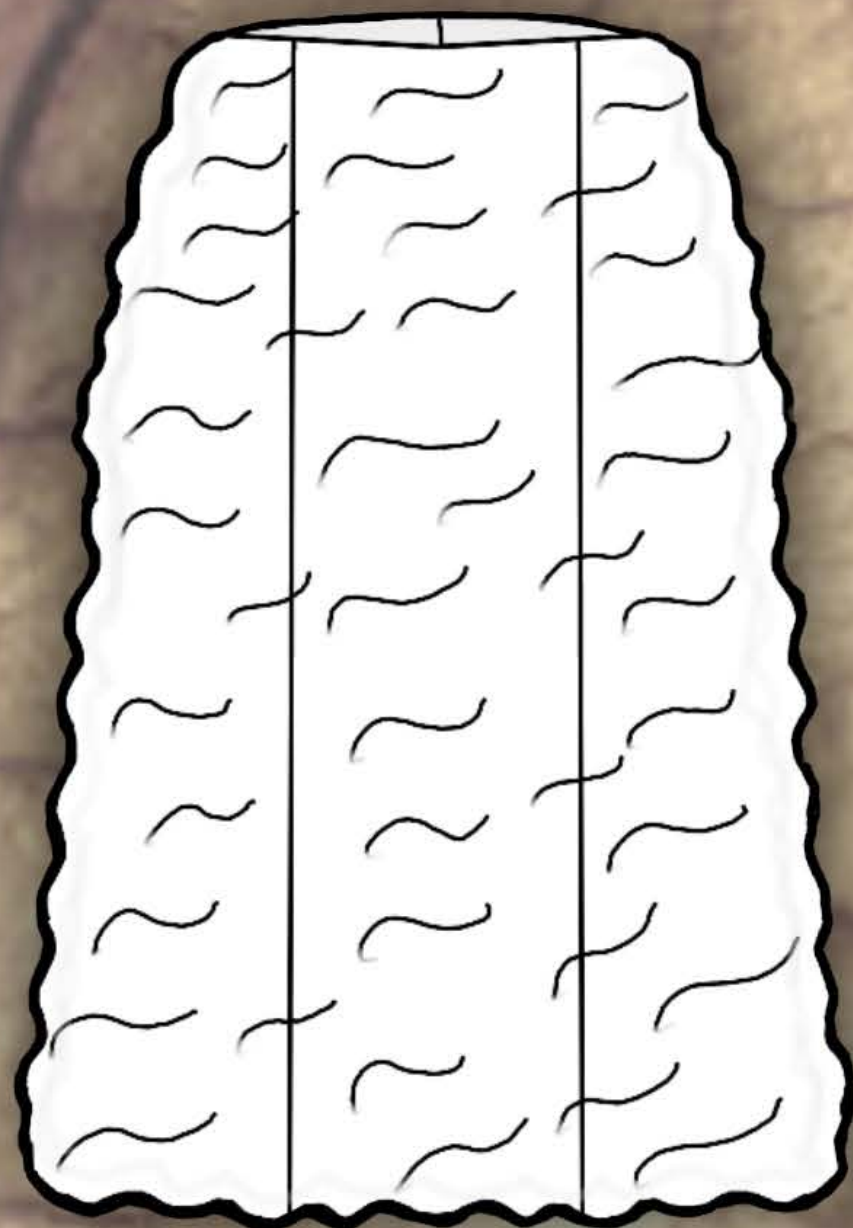


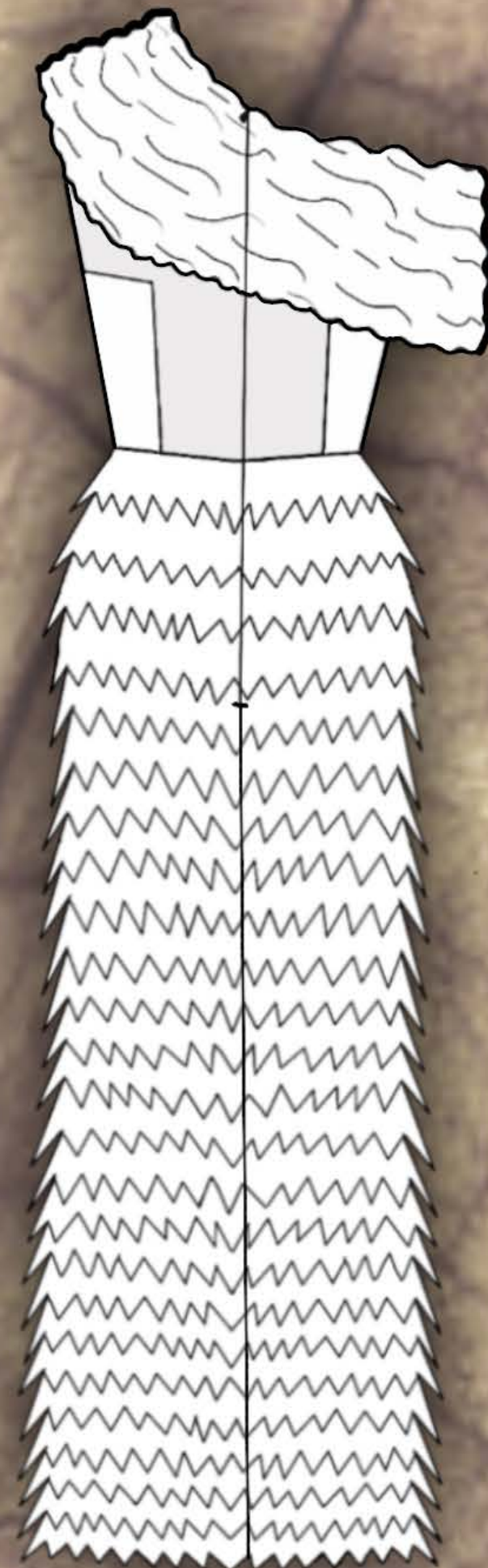
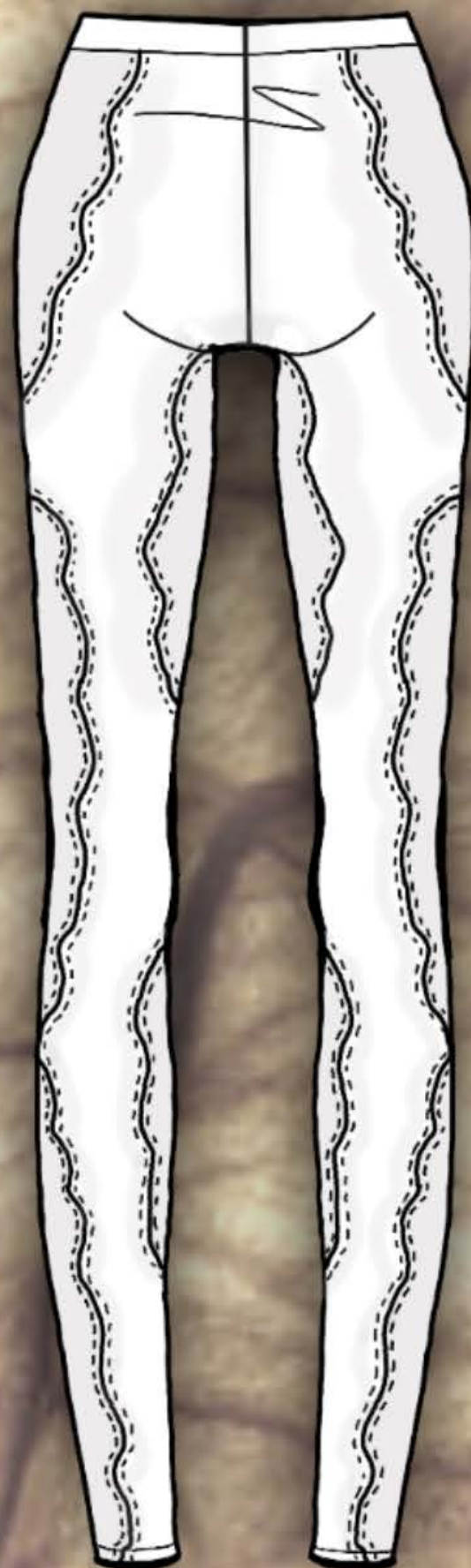
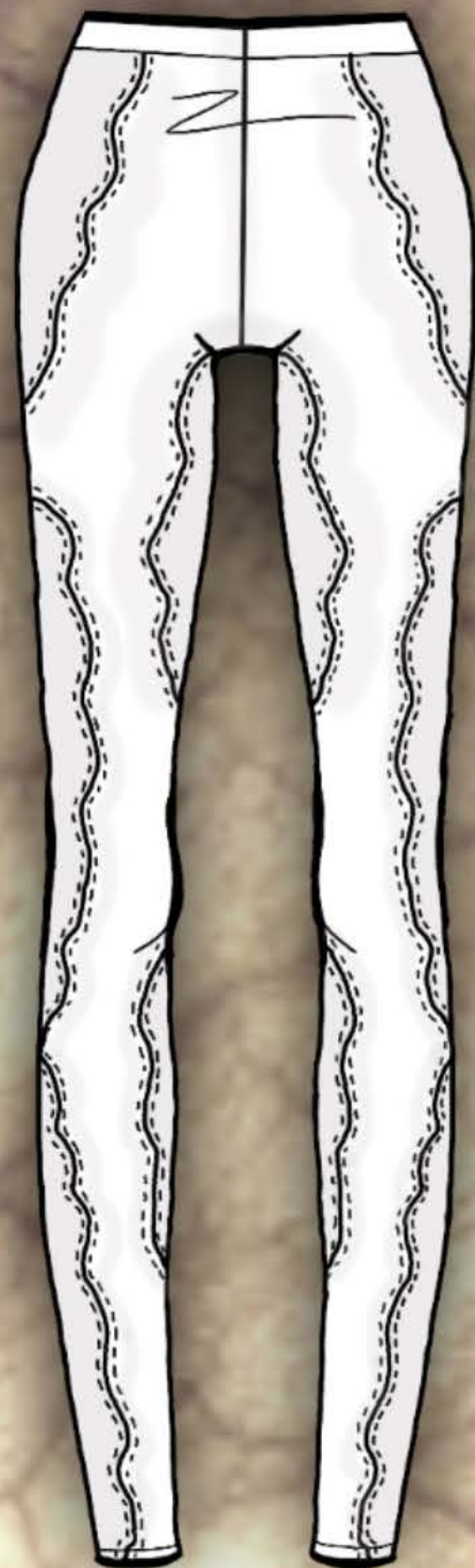


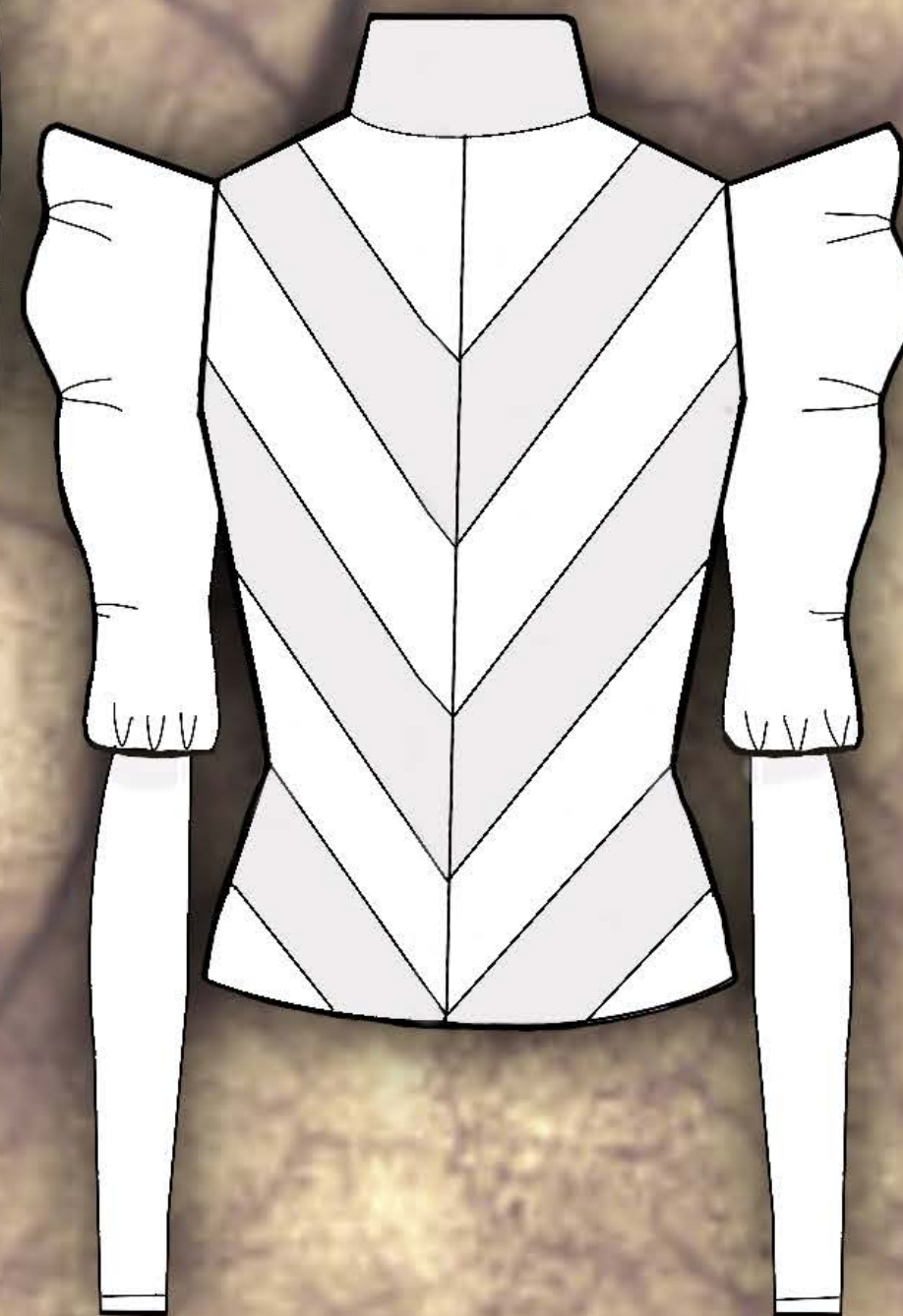
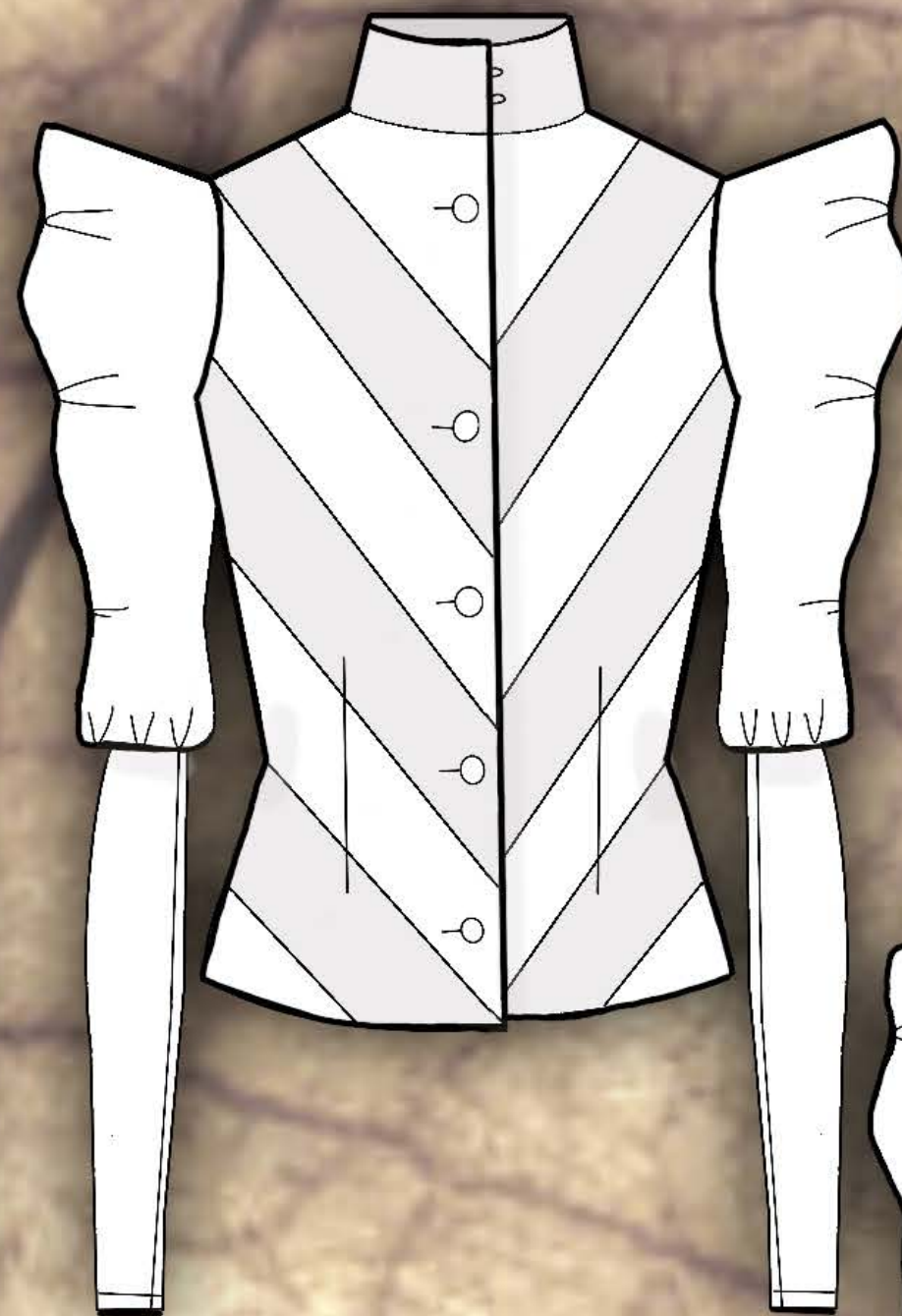
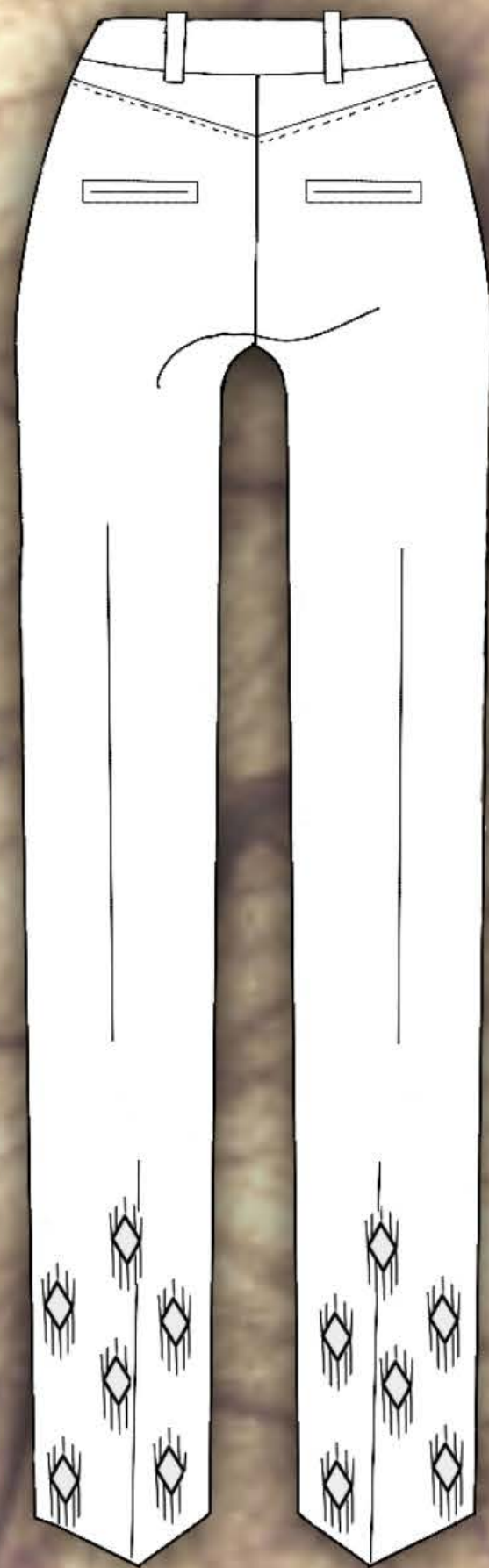
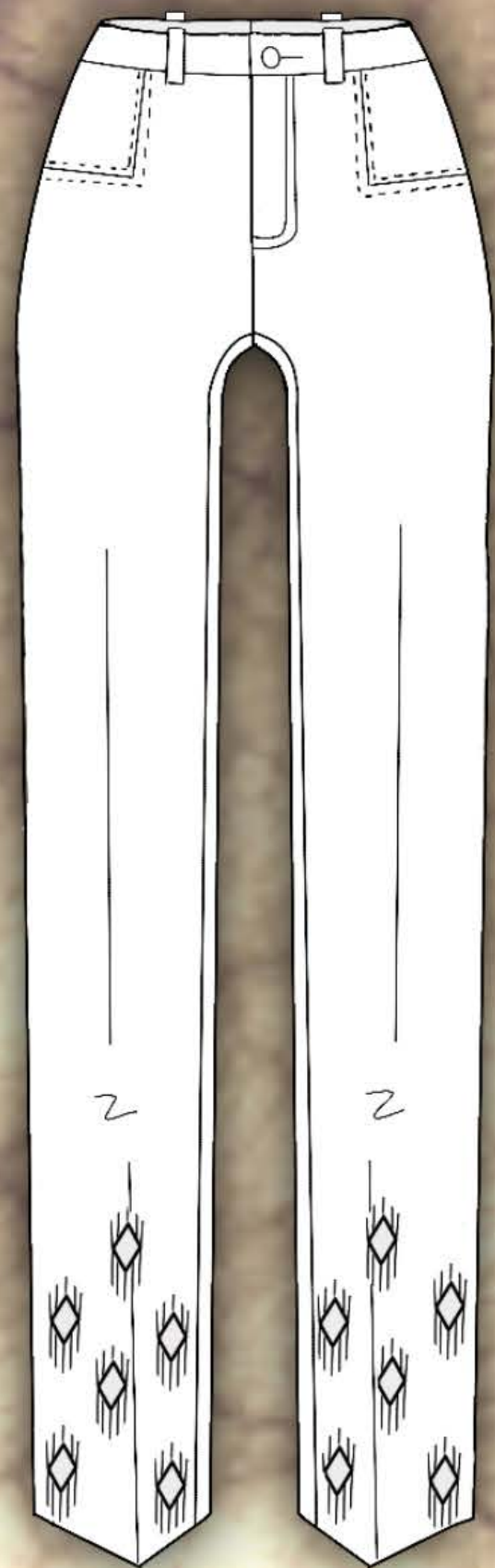


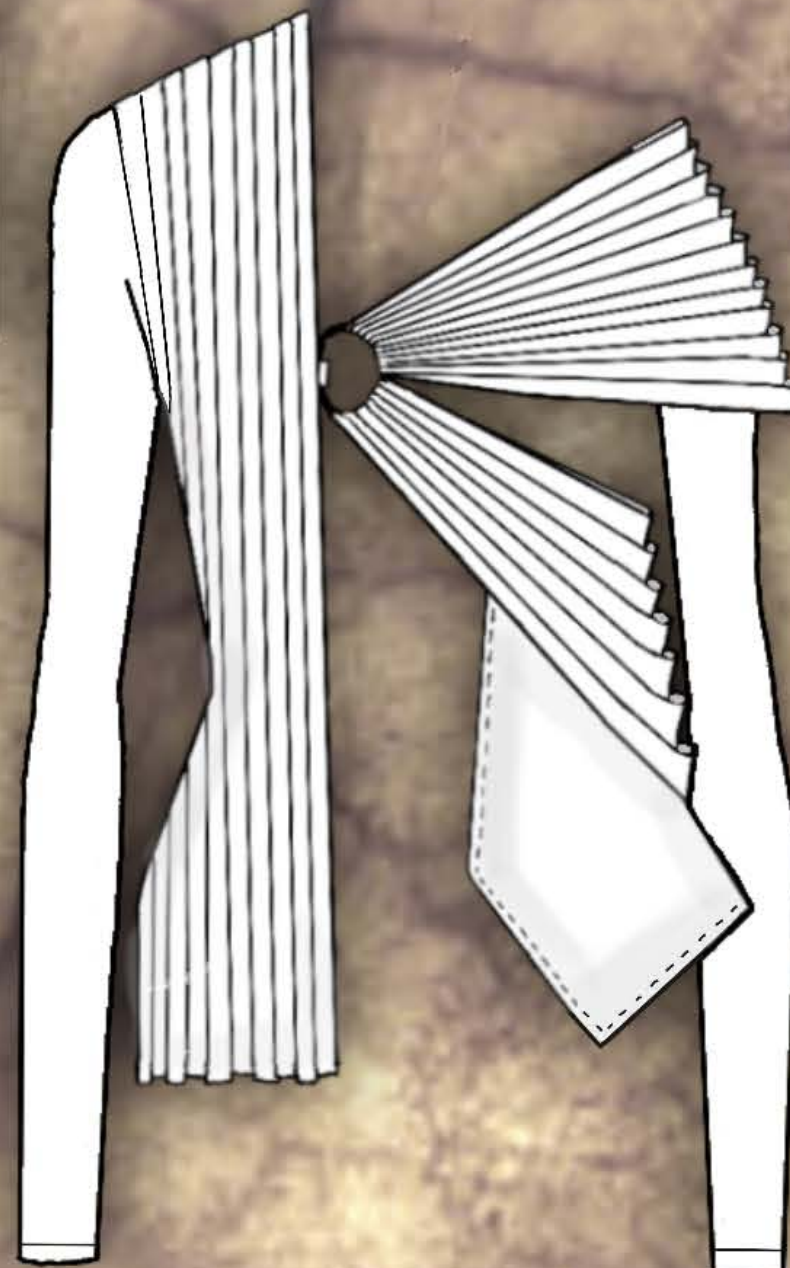
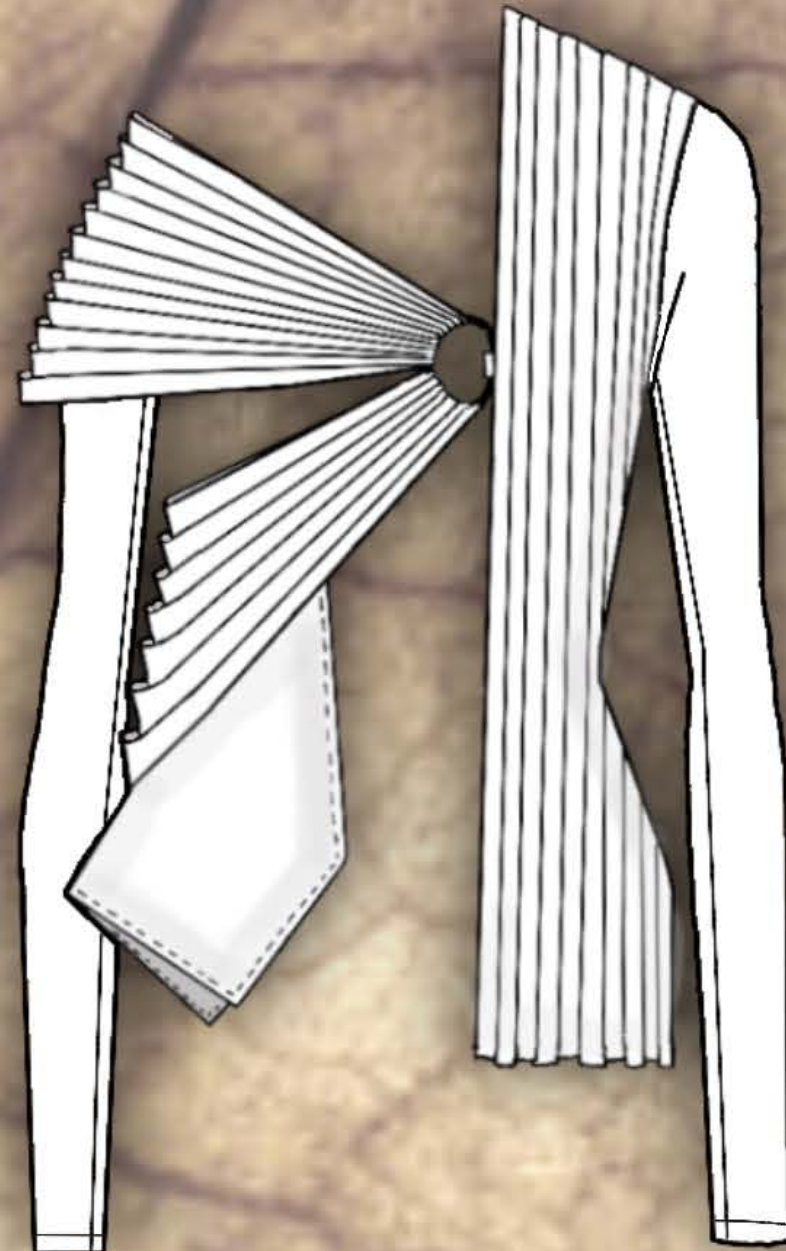
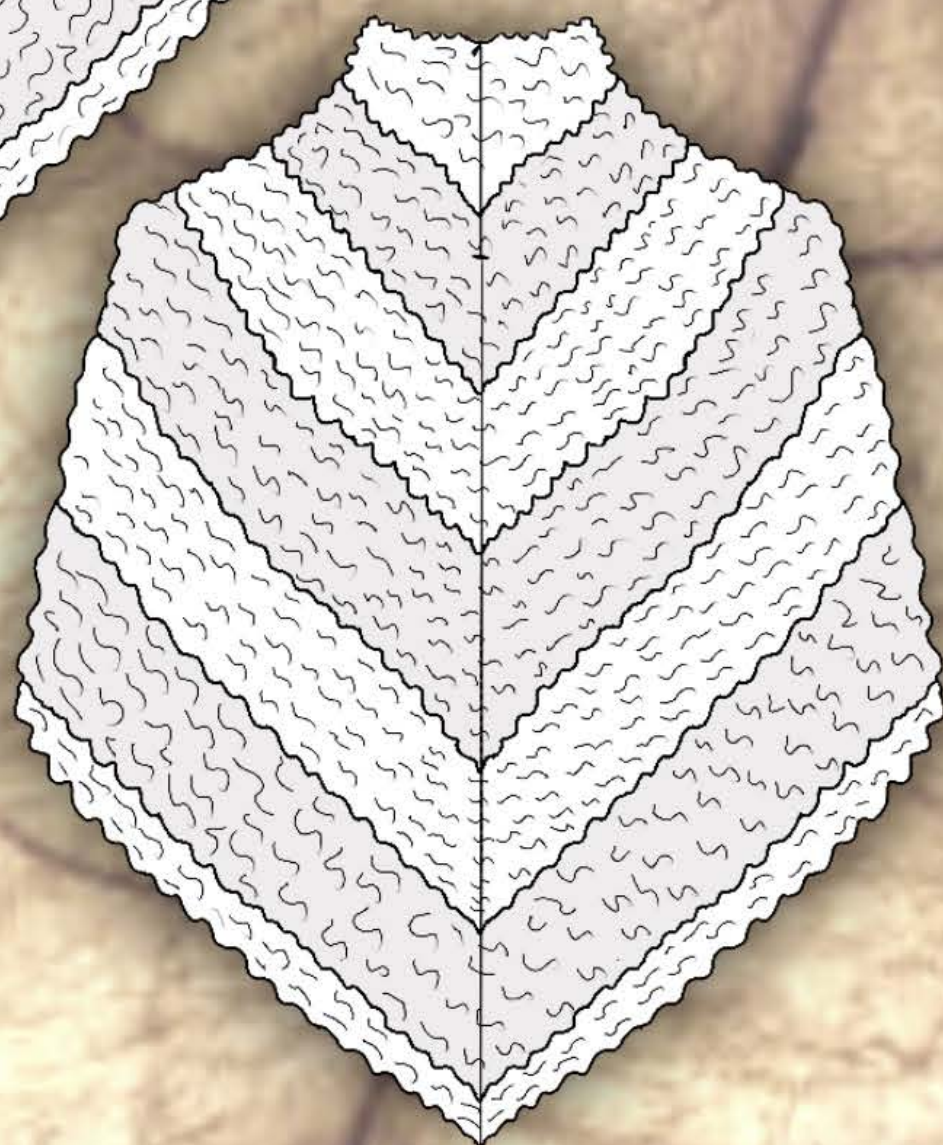
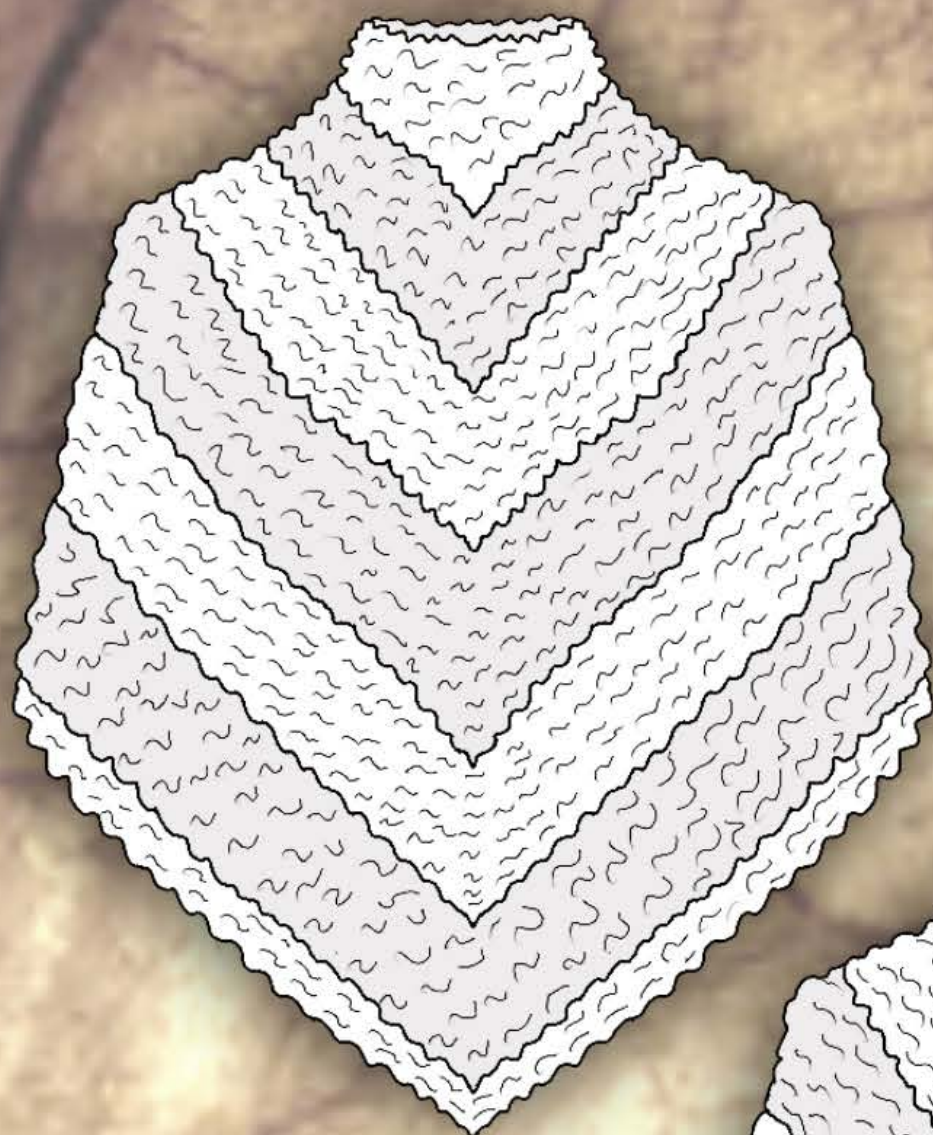


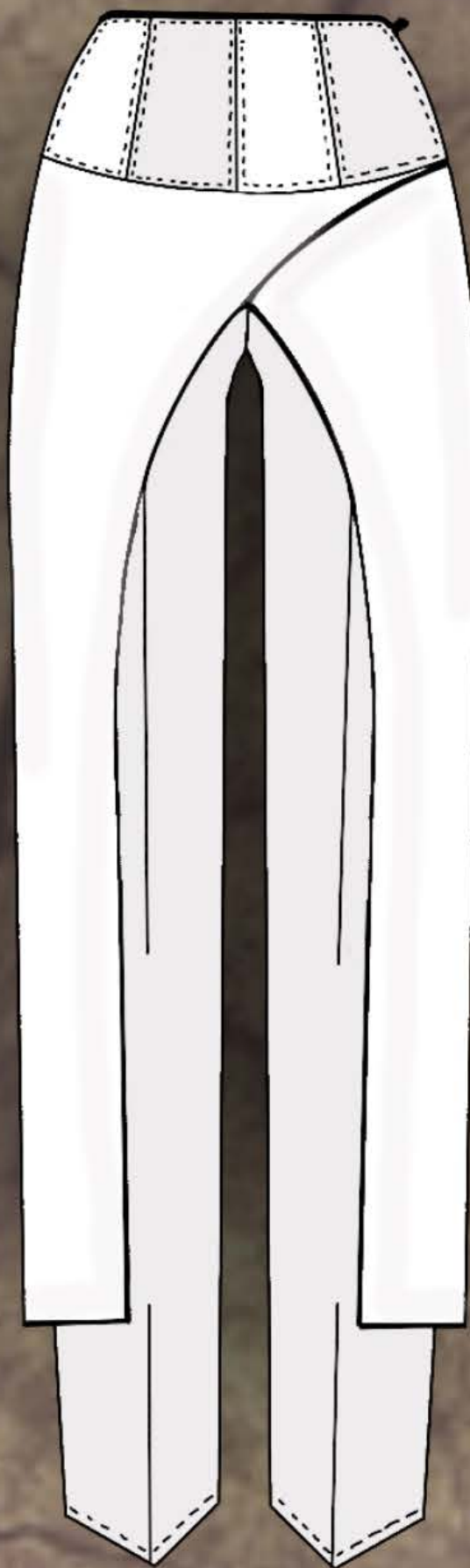
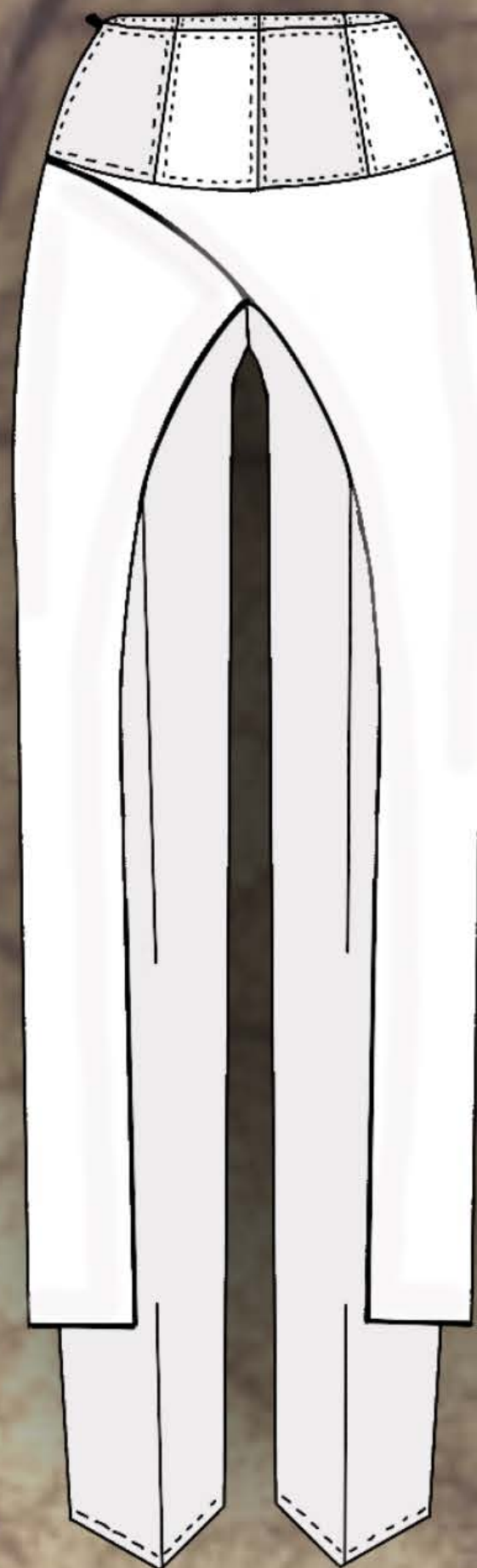
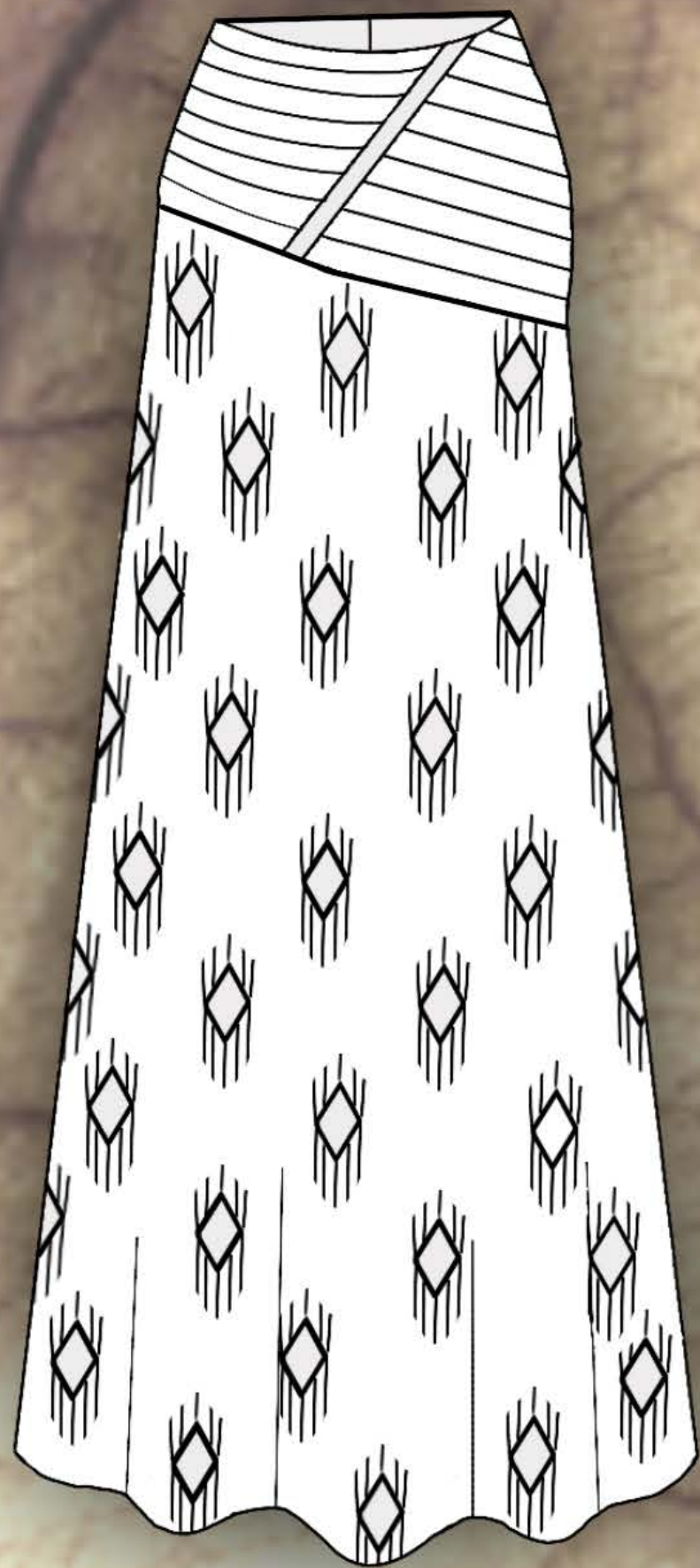






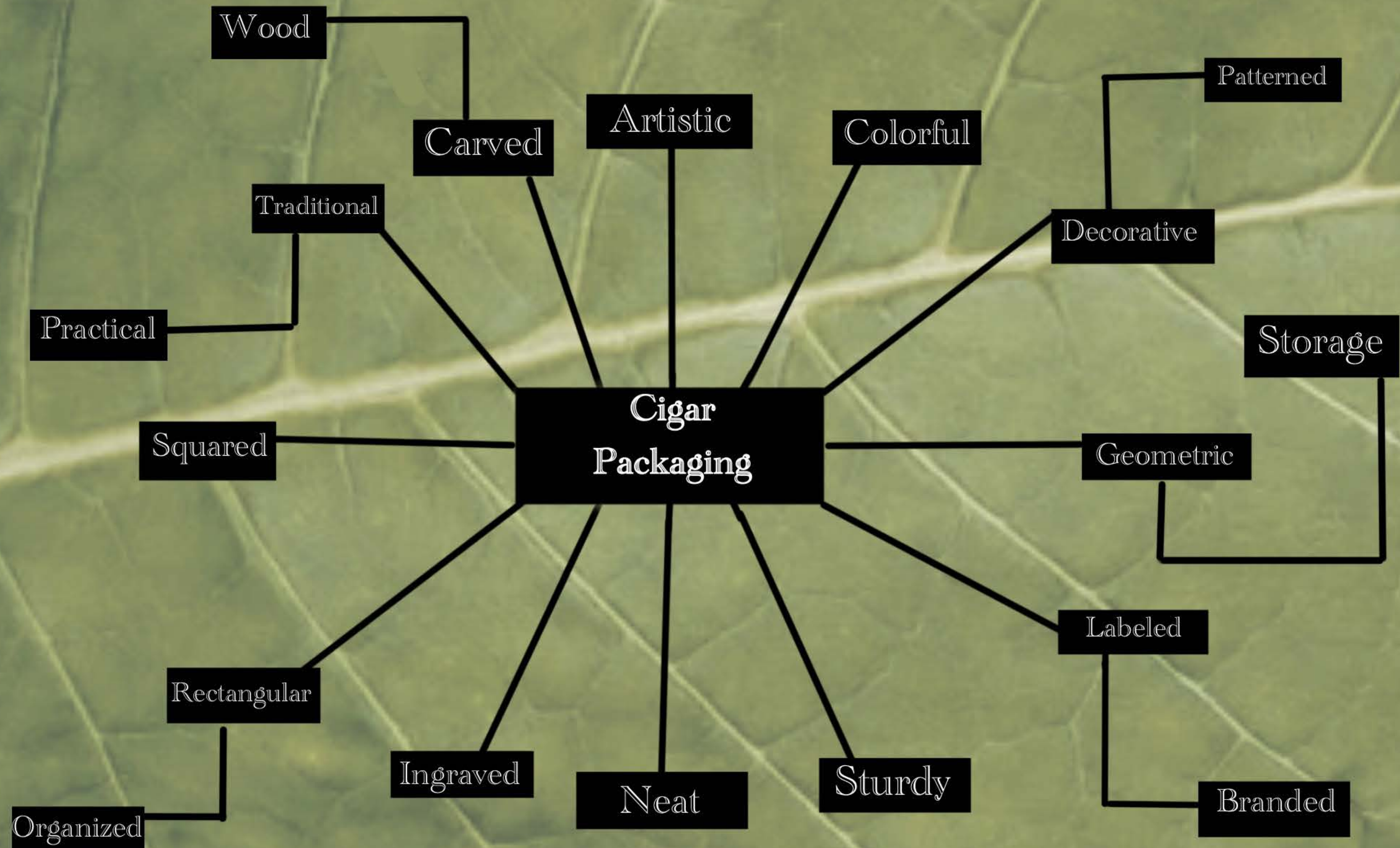








Mind Map



Spring



Fabrics & Color Story



Spring Sketches





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