

IIDA Cosmo Couture 2011



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Washington DC Inspiration: What makes DC different?

Design Philosophy

We began by concentrating on what makes Washington DC different from every other major city. What one word could you arrive at to describe Washington DC?

After asking this question we discovered it was easier to arrive at one word for other cities much quicker than it was to arrive at just "one" word to describe Washington DC.

Washington DC is and has always been a city of secrets but at the same time a city of open and exposed truths. It is a city that exists as both liberal and conservative at the same time. DC contains beautiful examples of architecture and design but also dilapidated, crumbling and abused buildings. The city has also had a long history of demonstrations of both freedom and oppression. It is a city of change while remaining the same. It is a city full of some of the richest and powerful people in the world but not without poor and the weak. "Political" is one word that springs to mind to describe DC however we felt that that was too obvious and selling the city short of all of its wealth and history.

The descriptions above could be said of many cities around the world but what set DC apart from all other cities was the "Contrast" by which these elements exist. DC is a city that exists in coexisting extremes, black and white held together on a grey field.

This revelation inspired us to create a garment that would show the duality of Washington DC. Our piece has been designed to express the, conformity, flamboyance, rigid shapes, organic forms, hard, soft, secrets, truths, violence and peace that is Washington DC.



