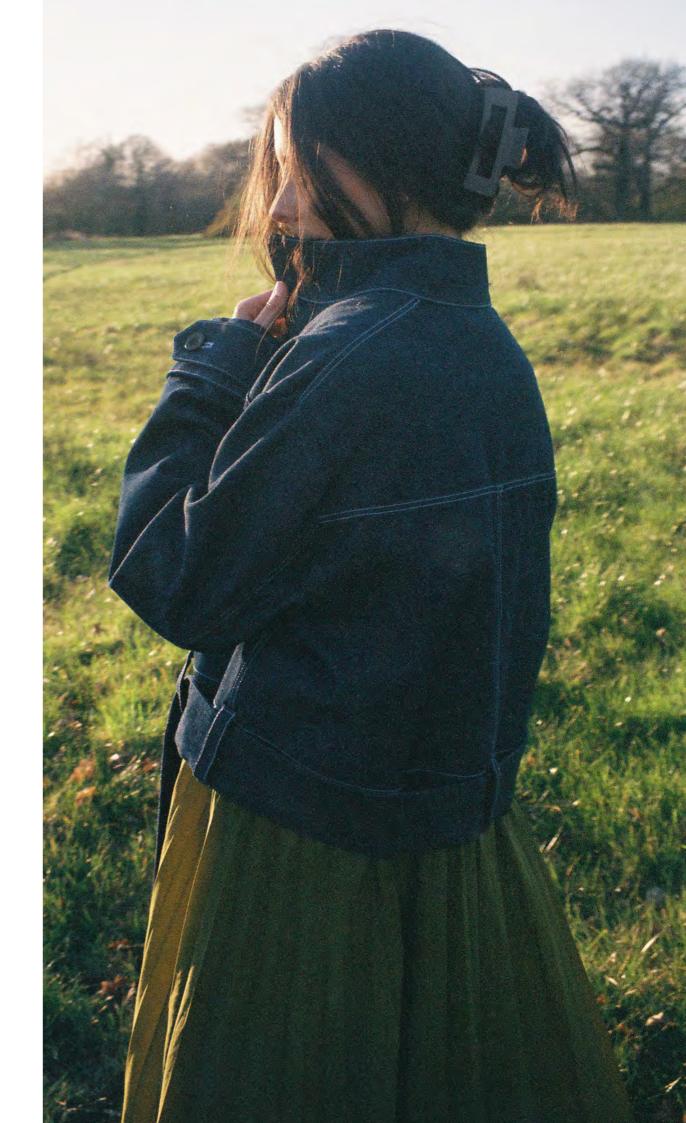
Eleanor Roberts
Fashion Design & Marketing
Northumbria University



We are Kokeshi, a womenswear brand that uses the concept of modularity to offer a genuine step towards a circular fashion economy. To achieve a sustainable fashion industry, there must be a change in the way fashion is produced and consumed.

At Kokeshi, we believe that convertible clothing plays a crucial role in the future of sustainable fashion. By designing pieces that can be worn in multiple ways and for different purposes, our brand encourages consumers to invest in versatile and durable pieces that can be worn for years to come. Our end goal is to help reduce the size of the modern-day wardrobe, whilst simultaneously increasing its potential.

Sustainability is at the core of Kokeshi's values, and we take a holistic approach throughout the company to minimize our impact on the planet and people. We ensure that the factories we work with adhere to strict safety and ethical standards and that all garment workers are paid fairly. Additionally, Kokeshi uses only sustainable sourcing practices, and our packaging is 100% biodegradable.

To further reduce waste and promote sustainable consumption, Kokeshi releases its collections through limited drops instead of conforming to the traditional fashion calendar. This approach allows us to commit to a higher standard of sourcing, innovation, and quality.



**BRAND CONCEPT** 

01

#### Genuine

Kokeshi was created out of a genuine intention to make positive changes in the fashion industry. We are passionate about our purpose and have taken steps to ensure that our policies align with our core values.

05

#### Responsible

Our impact on the planet and people are considered at every step of the process.

02

#### Innovative

Our team of designers are constantly thinking of new ways to make our clothes do more for us. We adopt a forward-thinking mindset; we assess everyday pieces and consider how they could be elevated to serve us better. The main way in which we achieve this is through modular design, which promotes sustainability by minimising the need for multiple garments. We develop contemporary solutions that can increase wearability, enhance functionality and subsequently, reduce waste.

06

#### Committed

We are committed to delivering the best possible product for our consumers, that is kind to the planet, whilst never compromising on style.

03

#### Quality

We strive to source only the highest standard of sustainable materials, alongside expert craftsmanship with attention paid to every stitch and seam. This combination results in a garment that is to be cherished, and that will last for years to come, reducing the need for repairs or replacements.

07

#### **Ethical**

At Kokeshi, we guarantee that all garment workers are paid fairly and that the factories we work with adhere to strict safety and ethical standards.

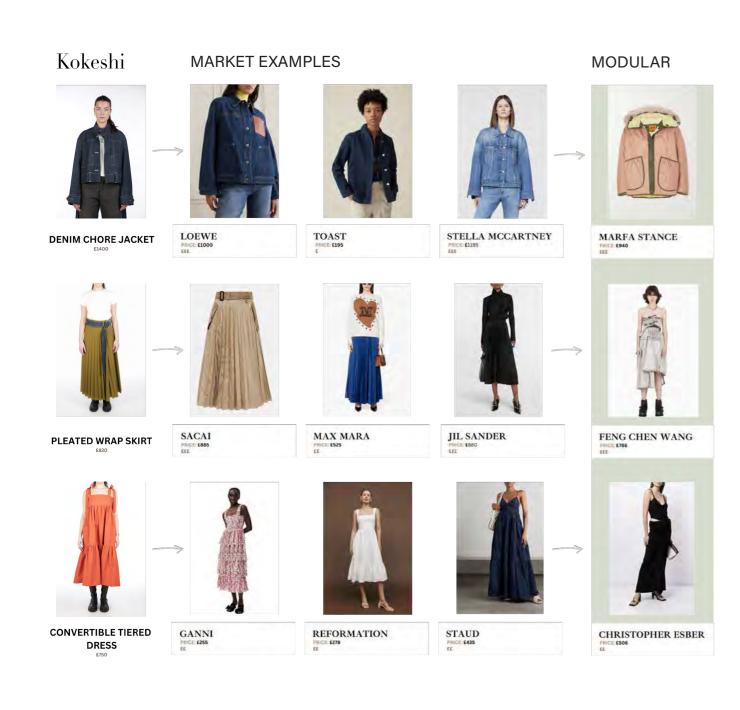
04

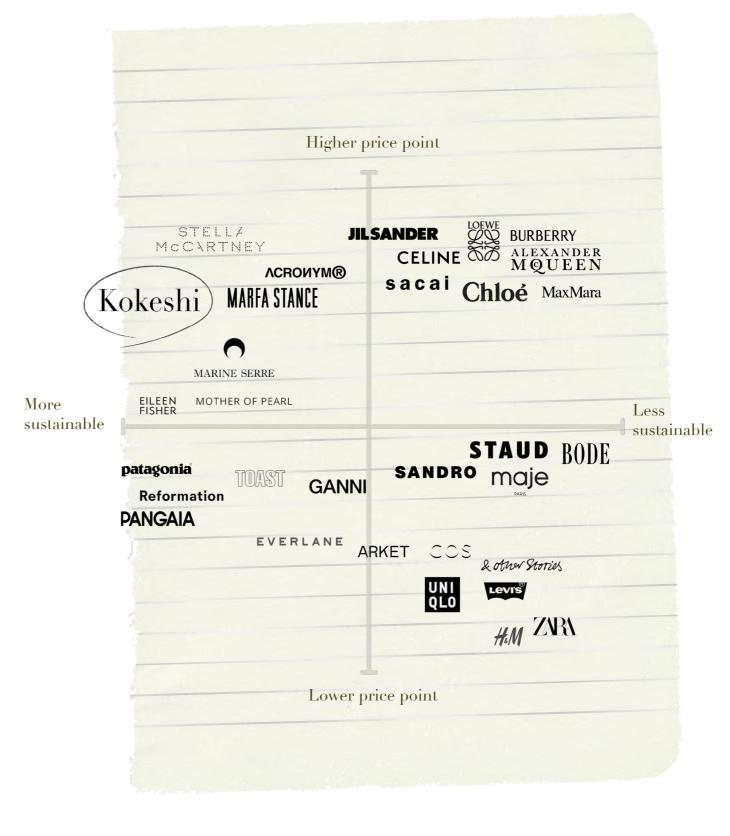
#### Versatility

Our garments allow individuals to customize their clothing to suit their given mood or occasion. Due to the modular nature of our pieces, you can mix and match different elements such as sleeves, collars, or pockets, to create a unique look that reflects your personality. This also permits the garments to be adjusted to suit the particular climate. 08

#### Honest

We believe that it's important to be transparent with our consumers to build trust. Therefore, we will provide an annual sustainability report observing our supply chain and production methods, to monitor our progress. This allows consumers to make informed decisions about the products they purchase and ensures that we always hold accountability for our impact.





#### Strengths

- Dedicated to sourcing the highest quality of materials and manufacturing
- Innovative and forward-thinking design appeals to early adopters
- •Versatile products that will cater to different occasions
- Ethical practices throughout the business
- •A sustainable brand may appeal to department stores that have set environmental goals such as the Selfridges 'Project Earth' initiative
- •The garments allow the user to personalise their outfit combination to fit mood/occasion

#### Weaknesses

- A high price point excludes wider markets
- Not all consumers in the luxury market are concerned with sustainability
- Some may feel the modular element is complicated or a hassle
- Extensive design process = longer lead times, many samples, complex pattern cutting due to modular element
- Sustainable materials are a higher price
- •Due to the nature of the product, consumers may want to experience them in person, which excludes those who can't access the flagship store or department store stockists.

#### Opportunities

- •Growing consumer awareness of the fashion industry's environmental impact
- •The increase of modern-day hybrid working supplies demand for versatile clothing
- •The cost-of-living crisis has led to an increase in walking/cycling commuting, which calls for weather-adapting clothing.
- Appeals to a wide age range due to shared values

#### Threats

- Established brands and their consumer loyaltyHaving classic rather than trend-led designs
- may not meet some consumer's desire for celebrity-inspired/influencer fashion
- •The seasonless element may not appeal to those consumers who want new styles more frequently



Kokeshi's customer is one who loves fashion but is deeply aware of the current environmental state and therefore feels a moral obligation to shop in a more considered way. Psychographics are most relevant when thinking of the Kokeshi customer, we may have very different consumers in terms of demographics. This represents that the brand appeals to a wide audience with shared core values.

#### Primrary customer example:



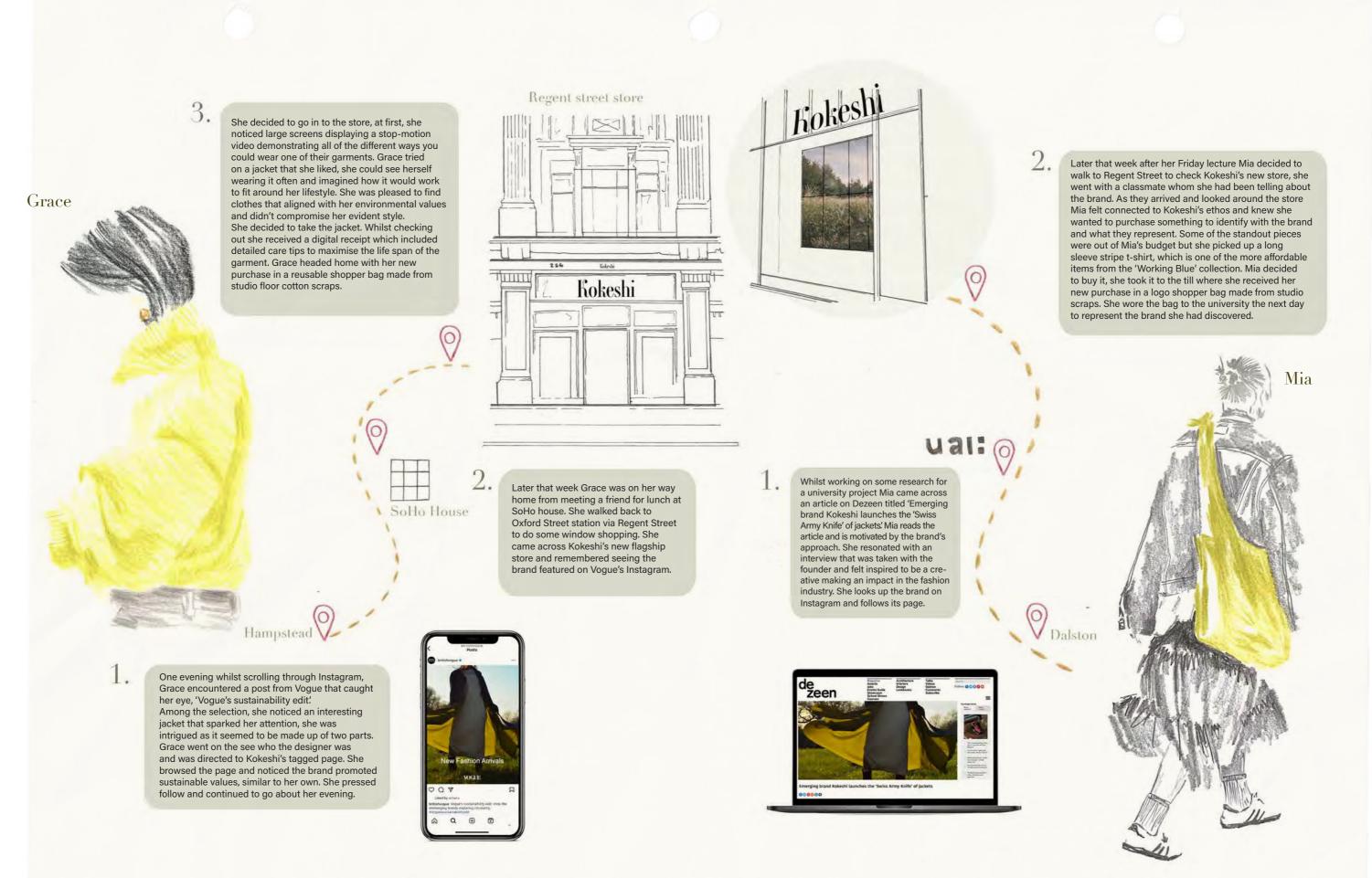
Grace is 58 years old and lives in a 5-bedroom terraced house in Hampstead. Her children are in their early twenties and have left home. She has had a long and successful career in the film industry and is nearing retirement. Grace has a high level of disposable income and regularly makes large purchases. Grace has a strong interest in fashion but is concerned about the environment, she worries for her children and future generations to come. Grace has implemented her values in many aspects of her life, she drives an electric car, her domestic products are clean and refillable, and she buys organic produce. She will purchase from the highest price point of the brand, for example, the Convertible Chore Jacket.

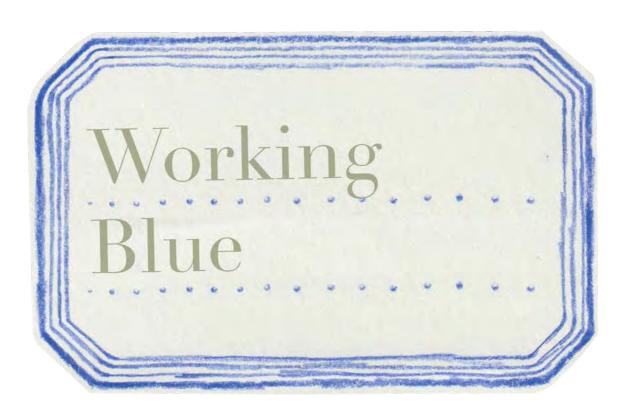
#### Entry level customer example:



On the other hand, there is Mia., she is a 22 years old fashion communications student at UAL, she lives in a flat in Dalston with two of her friends. Mia has a student loan and a weekend job at a coffee shop. Although she hasn't got as much disposable income Mia feels strongly about being part of the generation for change regarding the environment. She makes affordable changes to minimise the impact where she can have in her day-to-day life. Mia is an aspirational consumer and wants to identify with the values of Kokeshi as a brand, therefore will buy entry-level products such as the Long Sleeve Striped T-shirt.

Overall, both consumers are conscious of the impact their choices have on the world around them and seek to make choices that align with their values, whilst not compromising on their style.







The Working Blue collection draws inspiration from traditional French workwear known as 'bleu de travail' literally translating to 'blue work' which was renowned for its functionality and simplicity. Thanks to its practical nature, this attire was designed to be hard-wearing, comfortable and to allow free movement. This is something that we were drawn to as a brand, for whom the quality and wearability of a garment remain the core focus of all our designs. The collection pays homage to the durability of the original garments by using denim, cotton twill and reinforced stitching, which is used throughout, underpinning its original function as practical outerwear.

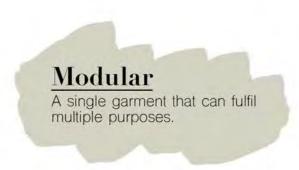
Working Blue juxtaposes conventionally utilitarian masculine workwear with hints of femininity, such as pleats, gathers and tiers. In combining these opposing elements, a unique aesthetic is created, producing a modern interpretation of the original garments.

Overall, The Working Blue collection provides a fresh take on workwear that is both functional and stylish. The combination of traditional workwear coupled with feminine elements and modularity creates a unique and iconic style that will remain a valuable and timeless addition to any wardrobe.









#### Examples of brand's that use the concept:



#### MARITHÉ FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD

The French brand born in 1969 is said to have brought innovation to casual clothing. This pair of jeans from the 80s have ties that allow you to transform the silhouette and provide two different effects tied at the back and the front. They also feature large hidden pockets in the excess fabric to utilise the space and provide functionality.

#### **ЛСКОИУМ®**

This Munich-based brand has a 'laser focus on functionality', each collection Acronym produce involves expert innovation and versatility. This jacket shows a built-in strap that allows the wearer the wear it across the body.



#### MARFA STANCE

Marfa Stance is a fully buildable women's outerwear brand. All garments can be added to and subtracted from to create the perfect piece for the given occasion and climate. The brand most often uses military-inspired silhouettes for a timeless style.

#### Building on third year research



After reviewing my work at the end of this project and questioning how I could improve the project going into my final year, I set out to solve the following issues. How can I hide all modular components from view when worn on the body? Additionally, how can I utilise each component to have its own function so there are no 'spare parts'?

# sacai

The Japanese brand is known for its distinctive style that fuses together contrasting textures. Sacai often takes inspiration from military staple silhouettes and then reinterprets them to create a unique and contemporary outcome.

Although the styles are utilitarian, the garments provide a feminine feel, achieved through techniques such as sheer layering and pleating.











Experimenting with contrasting textures and silhouettes through collage









**BRAND RESEARCH** 



I needed to find a way to design a skirt that could attach to the denim chore jacket with as much ease as possible. A wrap silhouette allows for an opening to create the illusion of a full-length jacket when attached.



Elsa Schiaparelli 1930's



Diane von Fürstenberg in 1972.















Knife pleat

Thom Browne

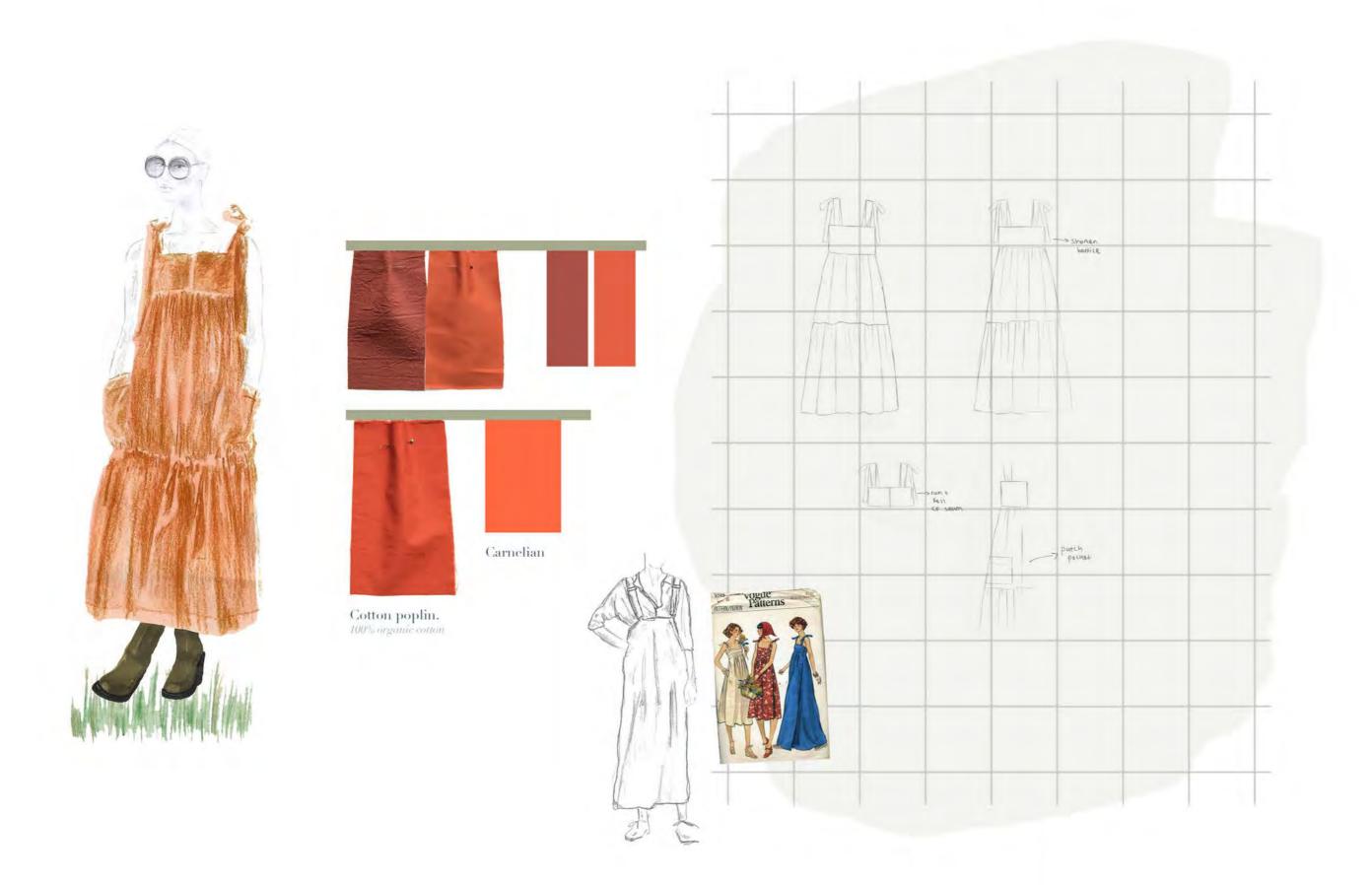




CHORE JACKET PROCESS



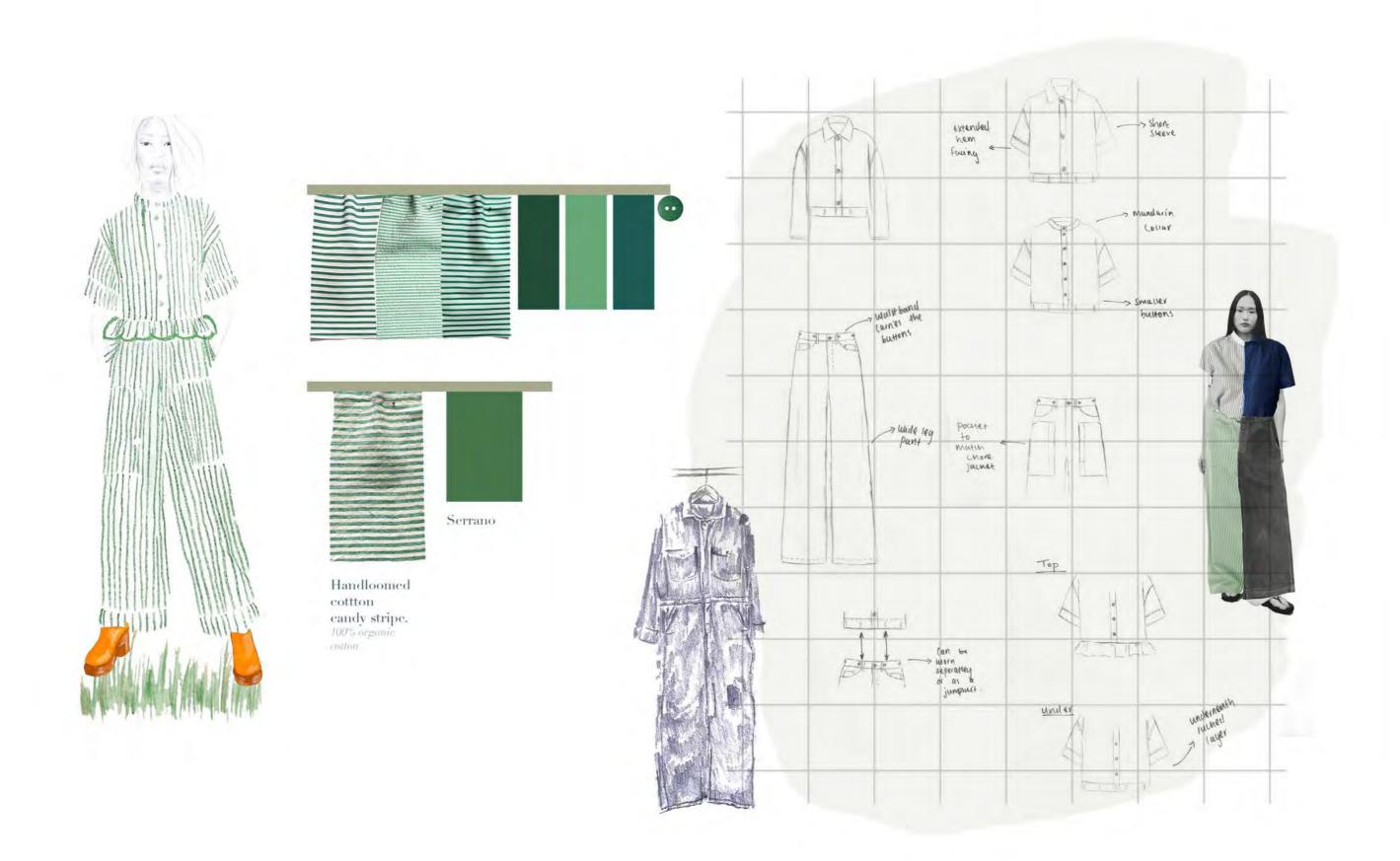


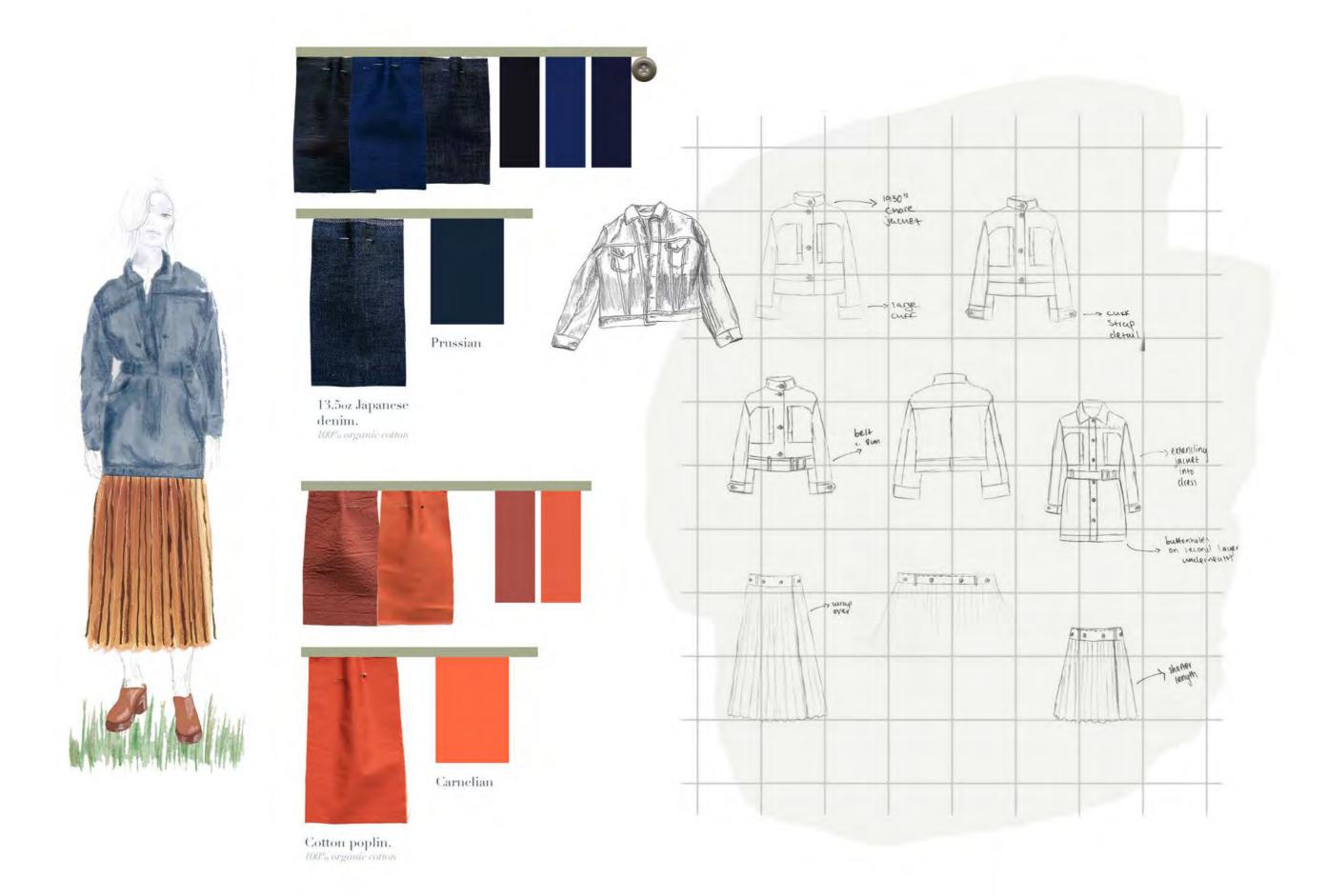


TIERED PINAFORE DEVELOPMENT























LOOK 3 & 4 BREAKDOWN





SPEC SHEET: 1	SEASON: AW/24	COLLECTION
EXTERNAL		WORKING BI

N: CATEGORY: ISSUE DATE: BLUE WOMENSWEAR 15/05/23

#### NAME: DENIM CHORE JACKET

TRIMS	
PROTO SAMPLE SIZE	UK M (10)
BLOCK	Men's Harrington jacket
CB LENGTH	60.5cm
FABRIC	Organic 12oz Japanese selvedge denim
 CB ZIP	N/A
FRONT FASTENING	Khaki corozo buttor (2.4cm)
BUTTON	х6
BUCKLE	Stainless steel (8cm

TRIMS	
PROTO SAMPLE SIZE	UK M (10)
BLOCK	Men's Harrington jacket
CB LENGTH	60.5cm
FABRIC	Organic 12oz Japanese selvedge denim
CB ZIP	N/A
FRONT FASTENING	Khaki corozo button (2.4cm)
BUTTON	х6
BUCKLE	Stainless steel (8cm)

COLOUR

Chartreuse

SPEC SHEET: 2 INT	TERNAL	Live	~		
		1	1	The ha	of lining
			1	that ca	rries the holes to the d skirt

LINING	Organic coated cotton
SLEEVE LINING	Organic coated cotton
LINING CB LENGTH	44cm
FACINGS	Hem facing (w=7.5cm)
GROSGRAIN	Self (w=3.5)
BUTTONHOLE	W= 1.8cm x 9
SHANDWICHED/BAGGED	Bagged
CB NECK LABEL	Cotton label ( 7x7 cm)
SIZE LABEL	N/A (size on swing tag)
CARE LABEL	Side seam
HANGING LOOP	Self
SWING TICKET	Recycled swatch tag

# SPEC SHEET: 3 DETAILS

Organic 12oz Japanese selvedge

FABRIC (MAIN)

denim







Organic coated cotton

LINING



8 cm buckle





COLOUR

Dark indigo



Grown-on strap cuff

Run and fell back yolk

EXTERNAL		WORKING BLUE	WOMENSWEAR	15/05/23
SPEC SHEET: 1	SEASON: AW/24	COLLECTION:	CATEGORY:	ISSUE DATE:



TRIMS	_
PROTO SAMPLE SIZE	UK M (10)
BLOCK	N/A
CB LENGTH	97.5cm
FABRIC	Organic coated cotton
CB ZIP	N/A
FRONT FASTENING	Khaki corozo button (1.8 cm)
BUTTON	х9
BUCKLE	(uses belt from jacket)

FABRIC (MAIN)	COLOUR	LINING	COLOUR
Organic coated cotton	Chartreuse	N/A	N/A

# Wrap skirt fastens with jacket belt Demonstrates how skirt attaches to jacket

LINING	N/A
SLEEVE LINING	N/A
LINING CB LENGTH	N/A
FACINGS	Waistband (w=7.5)
GROSGRAIN	N/A
BUTTONHOLE	N/A
SHANDWICHED/BAGGED	Bagged
CB NECK LABEL	Cotton label( 7x7 cm)
SIZE LABEL	N/A (size on swing tag)
CARE LABEL	Sides seam
HANGING LOOP	Self
SWING TICKET	Recycled swatch tag

#### SPEC SHEET: DETAILS







2.5cm belt loop

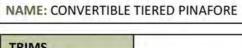
Baby lock edge for hem and side seams

1.8cm corozo button

SPEC SHEET: 1 EXTERNAL	SEASON: AW/24	COLLECTION: WORKING BLUE
		77 178
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1.11		

# LECTION: CATEGORY: ISSUE DATE: RKING BLUE WOMENSWEAR 15/05/23

#### SPEC SHEET: 2 INTERNAL



TRIMS				
PROTO SAMPLE SIZE	UK M (10)			
BLOCK	N/A			
CB LENGTH	103.5cm			
FABRIC	Organic cotton poplin			
CB ZIP	23.5cm			
FRONT FASTENING	N/A			
BUTTON	N/A			
BUCKLE	N/A			

	All internal side seams are finished in French seams
External view of seam	

LINING	N/A		
SLEEVE LINING	N/A		
LINING CB LENGTH	N/A		
FACINGS	Hem (w=7.5)		
GROSGRAIN	N/A		
BUTTONHOLE	N/A		
SHANDWICHED/BAGGED	Bagged		
CB NECK LABEL	Cotton label( 7x7 cm)		
SIZE LABEL	N/A (size on swing tag)		
CARE LABEL	Side seam		
HANGING LOOP	Self		
SWING TICKET	Recycled swatch tag		

FABRIC (MAIN) COLOUR LINING COLOUR

Organic cotton poplin Burnt orange N/A N/A

SPEC SHEET: 3 DETAILS





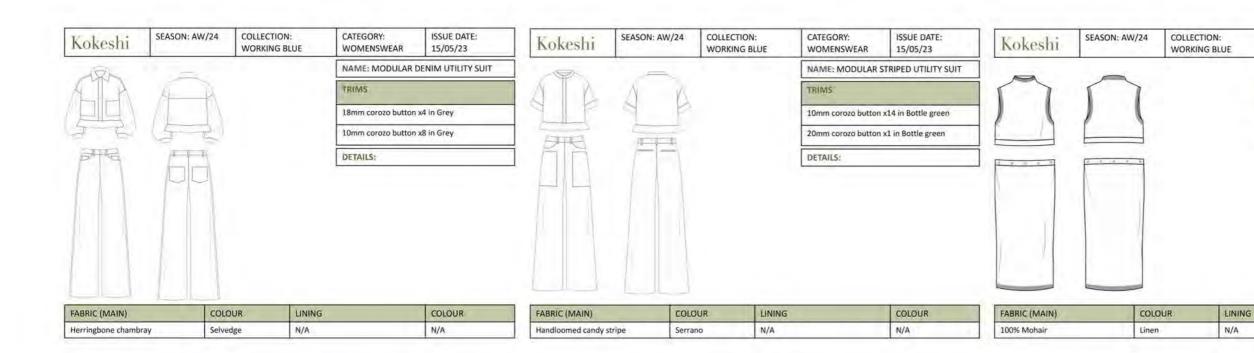


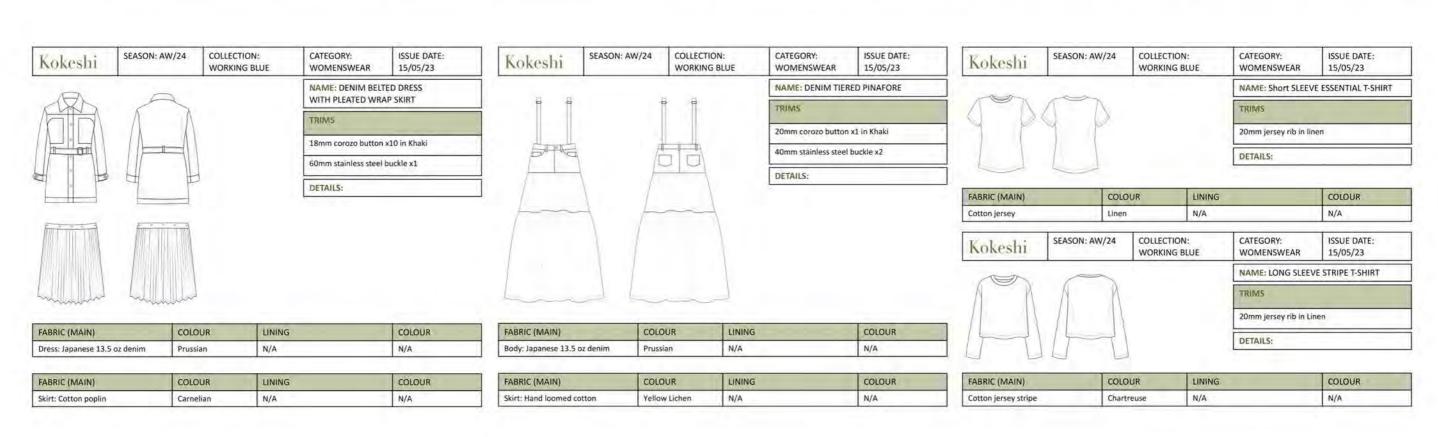




Run and fell patch pocket

Hem facing





CATEGORY:

TRIMS

DETAILS:

WOMENSWEAR

NAME: CONVERTIBLE KNIT DRESS

10mm corozo button x10 in Ivory

ISSUE DATE:

15/05/23

COLOUR

N/A









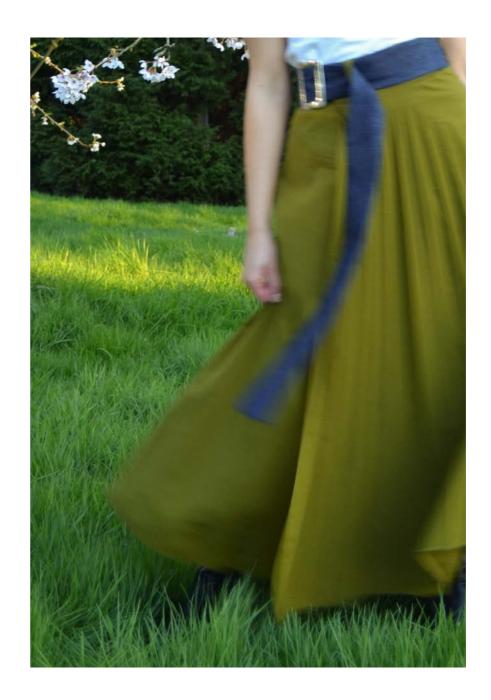






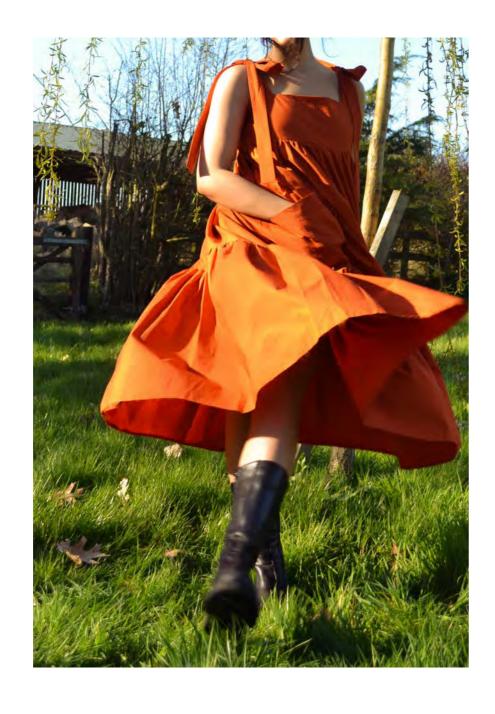






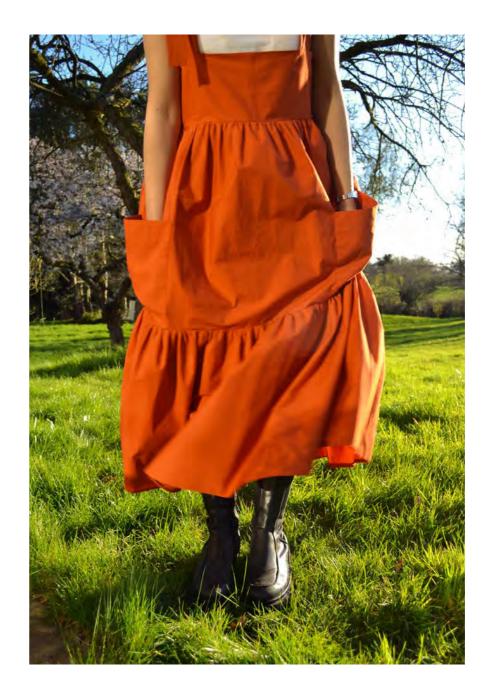


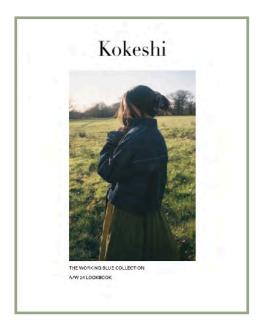




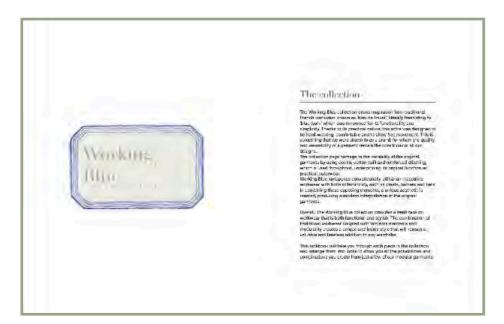


















## KOKESHI



Kokeshi

Ko-ke-shi

Kokeshi.

Kokeshi













## MOTHER OF PEARL

## Prairie Tale

In response to the brief, 'I am a tree hugger' I have designed a six-look collection named 'Prairie Tale'. The theme for this collection is inspired by American farm life in the late 1800s. I was inspired by the house on the prairie aesthetic, a style that was originally created as an affordable adaptation of the high fashion at the time. I wanted to evoke the spirit of this period by drawing from the use of checks, ruffles, full skirts, high necklines, and voluminous sleeves. The collection celebrates the traditional values held on such a farm and emphasises the need for more sustainable practices in the fashion industry.

Life at this time was isolated and people depended on being self-sufficient. Families relied heavily on their own resources and skills to provide for their daily needs, including growing their own crops, raising animals for food, and making their own clothes and furniture. Those living on the farms were intimately connected to their rural surroundings and had a deep understanding of where their food and clothing came from.

This way of life is something I admire and made me reflect on how far we have strayed from this. In today's society, where fast fashion and disposable clothing have become the norm, it's important to remember the value of knowing the origins of our clothing and the impact of our consumption on the environment. I hope this collection will highlight the beauty in knowing the origins of our clothing and can encourage consumers to think more critically about their fashion choices and the impact they have on the planet.







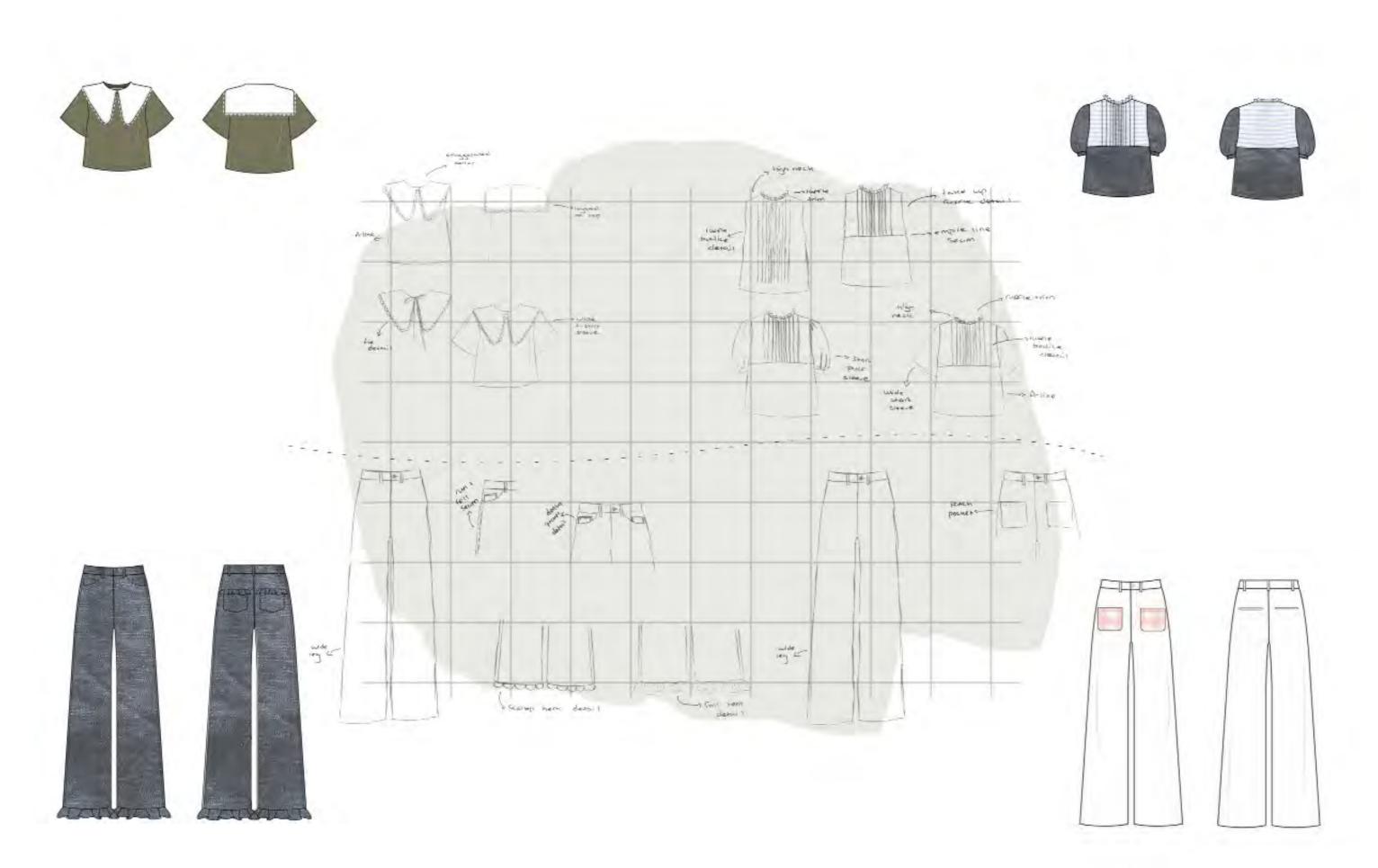
Blue stem



SILHOUETTE RESEARCH



SILHOUETTE COLLAGE





DESIGN DEVELOPMENT





RANGE PLAN