he couture... a unique give-and-take, a unique experience

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SORRY M LITE DID!T WANTO CON

e po fum des femmes impréviss les.

sales It ITY . Thornhill's suit reveals is that a ____t is never just a suit. Each time Grant's long, tanned fingers are forced to brush down and straighten up his jacket, it is a fantasy of self-possession that they are struggling to regain. We wear cuffs, collars and ties a world that is beyond our control. We button up our bodies as though we could do the same with memories and feelings, the excitations and agitations that plague us. Sometimes it works. The trouble is that we can only keep the world at bay for so long. The suit has a secret life. We might mistake it for a uniform, worn with mute obedience, but it possesses its own power. Understanding how it works might mean questioning the authority it exerts and facing up to the awful parts of life that a suit can legitimate. The suit's seriousness can, of course, b unbuttoned. Isn't it capable of lightness too, the carelessness of loosened tie and a jacket slung off a shoulder on a summer's da

88 | DRESSED

FALSE



PRETENCE LIVIN'

CONCEPT

One imagin low-slung ca kind of advice, the days, the elegantly

bemused girlfriend around whom I I sling an arm, the colin slow transatlantic drawl with which he speaks, the confidence that comes of possessing all the time in the world and the smartest cut suits too. The right suit can suggest composure, just as the badly fitted one can expose an ineptiade beyond merely clothes. (Think of Keanu Re dublably slick-suited in the John Wick films, even when splattered in blc with gunshots, next to the schlubby polyester of Ricky Gel David Brent in The Office, and then tell me I a WTOD2 can speak volumes. Grant knows this. Despitenot considering himself 'especially well dressed', his GO discloses a dogged and detailed thoughtfulness as to t of men's dress. A blustering nonchalance undercuts ar vanity and keeps things light, but the particularities of wore and how seemed to matter to Grant. more p













UPHOLSTERY FOAM

CREATING SHOULDER PADS



DEVELOPING SHOULDER PADS & MODULAR HARNESS FOR SUPPORT



SILHOUETTE & **3-PANEL SLEEVE DEVELOPMENT**

GATHERING, SHIRRING & LAYERING

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But the history of men's suits doesn't simply shore up the errog s it too. W surance masc ger

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INITIAL CONCEPT COLLAGING

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realisation falls upon him absently hands the folded garments back to visibly dazed, before rambling incoherent the stand.

Throughout the proceedings, Eichm inresponsive, as though he were an impart s as unbending as the suit in which he can seem wretched, the fa ng vulnerability crossing his fa we note the receding temples, a ch of the nose. He gives so little most particularly when he tw

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INTRODUCING TEXTURE & FABRIC MANIPULATION

ation alls upop him ρ . He sways unsteadily and ently hands the folded rangents back to the court attendant LINING CONSTRUCTION sibly dazed, before rand erentiv and collapsi

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Thoughout the chman nk unresponsive, as though 121 his ial. He is as unben ling: r which he ments, he can seem wratched, the faintest expression of a ilde ing vulnerability ing his fac n the camera es m, we note the rec di ples, a s of hair. vous itch of the nose. eaw ve seek oi he clues, most particul; W s suited square form r. f a body shr mker by a

izes too big, the ample: askew. In the film the but so too does the overw strange and puzzling is th from the sidelines as each at his behest?

the stand.

Courts of law operate with codes of conduct, and suit wearing ms part of the theatre ge or jury, a criminal a figure of moral up hough dignity, respect inherent to the garnient secure absolution from even the worst Elchmann and De-Nucreveal in the co of the suit wearer, the deceptions of v and the tumult they cannot always con The irony is that the purpose of weakness and withstand outward e of resistance to unwanted inti







unscathed. At its most exagerated the Bond hero gracefully





'collaring" and 'buttenholing', for instan

or corner - the language of the suppresses and restigning ower is a part of the suit like no other item of dress, sudible

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ncrim

is a grin.

high shoulder

pads still present.

to rec

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structure.

double breasted

perfection once wro__, aoticing in it a ed edges of life The solidity





ADDING VOLUME TO TAILORED TROUSERS



INTERNAL DETAILS & REFINEMENT on the surface, to signal the surest safety, asserting polite blandishments, keeping unruly feelings at bay. Its uniform blankness wards off inspection and keeps private things in reserve. Even as it provides the most basic building block of mart dress for men, the suit can always makes room for secrets internal pockets, concealed fastenings, hidden linings. The readest secret of all, though, is its own vulnerability. We speak readily of dressing for the job, of the desirability of a man in his Sunday best, of a modern courtliness attendant on tops and tails, here a suit possesses

a sexuality, it is one of cool reserve, carefully concealed yet effortlessly unstripped. Across the world, men conventionally marry in different versions of the suit, as though despite the variations of length, fabric, tailoring, colour and style, the garment reserves for itself some guarantee of uprightness and rectitude – a comply in cut that can be committed to.

it interrogates it what Roger

realisation falls upon him ______ a c sways unsteadil absently hands the folded garments back to the court attenda visibly dazed, before rambling incoherently and collapsing o the stand.

Throughout the proceedings, Eichmann is blank and unresponsive, as though he were an impartial witness to his own trial. He is as unbending as the suit in which he stands. At certain moments, he can seem wretched, the faintest expression of a bewildering vulnerability crossing his face. When the camera closes in, we note the receding temples, a stray wisp of hair, the nervous itch of the nose. He gives so little away that we seek out the clues, most particularly when he twitches or shifts, when his suited square form ripples. We catch a glimpse of the lines of a body shrunken by age, swamped by a blazer perhaps two sizes too big, the rumples in the shirt, his tie the smallest degree askew. In the film, the testimonies against him accumulate, but so too does the overwhelming sense of his alienation. How

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