

YEAR 12 TEXTILES & DESIGN
MAJOR PROJECT

Designer Statement

NAME

Kelsey
Smit

TITLE

Shapes of Africa

FOCUS AREA

Apparel/Costume

The African-inspired Major Textiles Project blends traditional embellishment techniques to create an intricate and textured design. The focus area of apparel, in combination with costume, allows the representation of the Zulu culture through beading, the Rwandan culture through fabrics and modern adaptations of historical designs through the incorporation of 1950s fashion.

The inspiration of the 1950s full circle and peplum skirt have been expanded to be removable and use a waterfall train down the front to display the Rwandan designs on the underside. The Rwandan fabric was bought from the markets of Kigali, Rwanda.

The salient beaded designs of my garment have been influenced by my childhood as I grew up surrounded by the Zulu culture in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. The consistent use of this fabric, and beading with its colours, creates unity in the design.

As a garment, the design demands attention, embodying confidence and femininity through the innovative use of a combination of a powerful skirt design and multiple forms of beading.