

Zenith Project Reflection

For my Zenith Project, I chose to create a clothing collection inspired by sand dunes. The idea came naturally to me because I've always been fascinated by natural environments and the colors and shapes found in them. Sand dunes especially caught my attention with their smooth, flowing curves and warm, earthy tones like soft beiges, browns, and golds. I wanted to capture the calm and beauty of that landscape in a wearable form, blending nature's appeal with fashion design. Choosing to make clothing felt like the perfect fit since I've been interested in fashion for a while, but I had never taken on the challenge of making complete garments before. This project gave me the chance to bring my ideas to life in a new and exciting way.

Before starting, I did research to understand more about the sand dune environment, paying close attention to how light interacts with the sand and how the shapes change with the wind. I looked at photos and videos to really immerse myself in the textures and colors. Artistically, I was influenced by designers who work with natural forms and earthy palettes, as well as minimalist designers who focus on flow and simplicity in their clothing. I also spent time learning how to use digital tools like Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop, which were essential in turning my initial sketches and ideas into detailed design plans. These apps allowed me to experiment with different color combinations and fabric textures, making the design process more visual and flexible.

During the project, I collaborated with my classmates and teachers, asking for feedback and advice at different stages. This collaboration was mostly successful because it gave me fresh perspectives and helped me solve problems I hadn't thought of before. For example, when I struggled with how to translate my digital designs into real fabric, my teacher showed me techniques that made sewing and cutting easier. However, there were some challenges as well, such as coordinating time to work together or sometimes having different creative opinions. But overall, the collaboration pushed me to improve my communication and adaptability.

One of the biggest skills I developed was digital design proficiency. Using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop improved my ability to create professional-looking concepts, which is a skill I know will be valuable in future projects or even a career in fashion design. I also grew in my problem-solving and perseverance, especially when I moved to the production phase. Sewing the garments and working with real materials was by far the hardest part of the project. It required patience, trial and error, and attention to detail, especially since this was my first time making full products instead of just sketches or small prototypes. The skill I improved the least was probably time management because I underestimated how long the production would take, and that caused some stress near deadlines.

This project was a major learning experience that I will carry forward. I now understand how to better plan a design project from start to finish, including research, digital planning, and physical creation. The confidence I gained in using digital tools and sewing complex garments is something I plan to build on for future design work. I also realized how important it is to be flexible and open to feedback.

Looking back, I feel I accomplished many of the project's objectives. I definitely ignited my passion by working on something meaningful to me and seeing it come to life. I elevated my skills, especially in digital design and garment construction, and I am proud that I created a collection that reflects my vision in a tangible way. If I were to do the project over, I would start the production phase earlier and give myself more time to experiment with fabrics and sewing techniques. That way, I could avoid some of the last-minute pressure and produce even better results.

During the presentation in May, I was a bit nervous but excited to share my work. I learned that audiences appreciate not only the final product but also the story behind the designs and the creative process. Their questions and feedback gave me new ideas for how I might improve or expand my collection in the future.

One meaningful final thought I want to leave with the reader is that this project taught me the value of persistence and passion in creative work. It's not just about the final piece, but the journey of discovery, learning, and growth that makes a project truly rewarding. The sand dunes inspired more than just the look of my clothing—they inspired me to push through challenges and create something uniquely mine.