



AVO ANTONIO A/W 25/26

My competition piece, created as part of my second-year tailoring project, is a tailored blazer inspired by my Portuguese grandfather, Avo Antonio. I'm proud of my dual British and Portuguese heritage, and I aim to bring this cultural richness into my designs.

Avo Antonio's life: from his service as a mounted police officer in Portugal and Germany to running our family farm has always inspired me. Summers spent working on the farm in Portugal have shaped my understanding of durability, practicality, and craftsmanship.

For this blazer, I wanted to reflect my grandfather's hardworking spirit through a garment that combines function and elegance. The blazer's pockets, doubled for extra storage, are inspired by the shape of his denim jeans pockets. Flat-felled seams echo the durability and hard-wearing nature of his work clothes. The silhouette, featuring a fitted waist and exaggerated balloon sleeves, draws influence from Schiaparelli's couture, blending tradition with modernity.

Leather plays a central role in my piece. I chose cow leather scraps sourced from a local upholsterer, ensuring the project remains sustainable while allowing me to explore new leatherworking techniques. The leather elements are inspired by the dark oak furniture my grandfather owned and by Chesterfield sofas, connecting my design to both heritage and luxury.

One of the most meaningful details in my blazer is the leather sleeve moulding, inspired by the architectural tiles on the exterior of my grandfather's 1970s-built home. I replicated the arches from these tiles and incorporated them into the sleeve design, while the floor tiles inside the house were etched into denim for the lining. This felt poetic — exterior tiles on the outside, interior tiles hidden inside — symbolising the duality of heritage and personal narrative.

Though the creative journey wasn't without challenges, I embraced the process wholeheartedly. Even when the blazer wasn't fully finished before my photoshoot, I pushed ahead, capturing imagery rooted in my story and summer memories in Portugal. Embracing imperfection added authenticity to the final piece.

After returning from the shoot, I completed the finishing touches, subtly integrating the tile motifs into the front bodice and back panels. Hardware details, including rivets and a braces clasp closure, as well as fine detailing around the collar and pockets, contribute to a modern "quiet luxury" aesthetic, aligning with current trends while honouring traditional craftsmanship.

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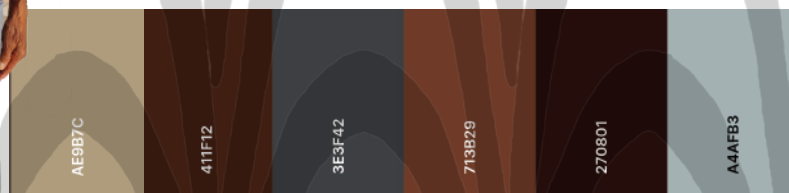
OUR FRUIT AND VEG FARM



TILES FROM HIS HOME HE BUILT



HIS STYLE



COLOUR PALETTE FROM LIVING ROOM PHOTOGRAPH

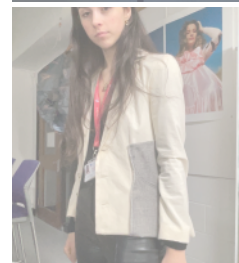
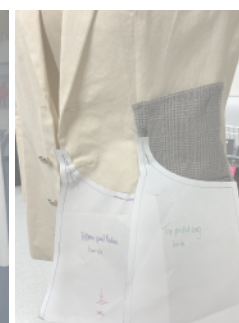
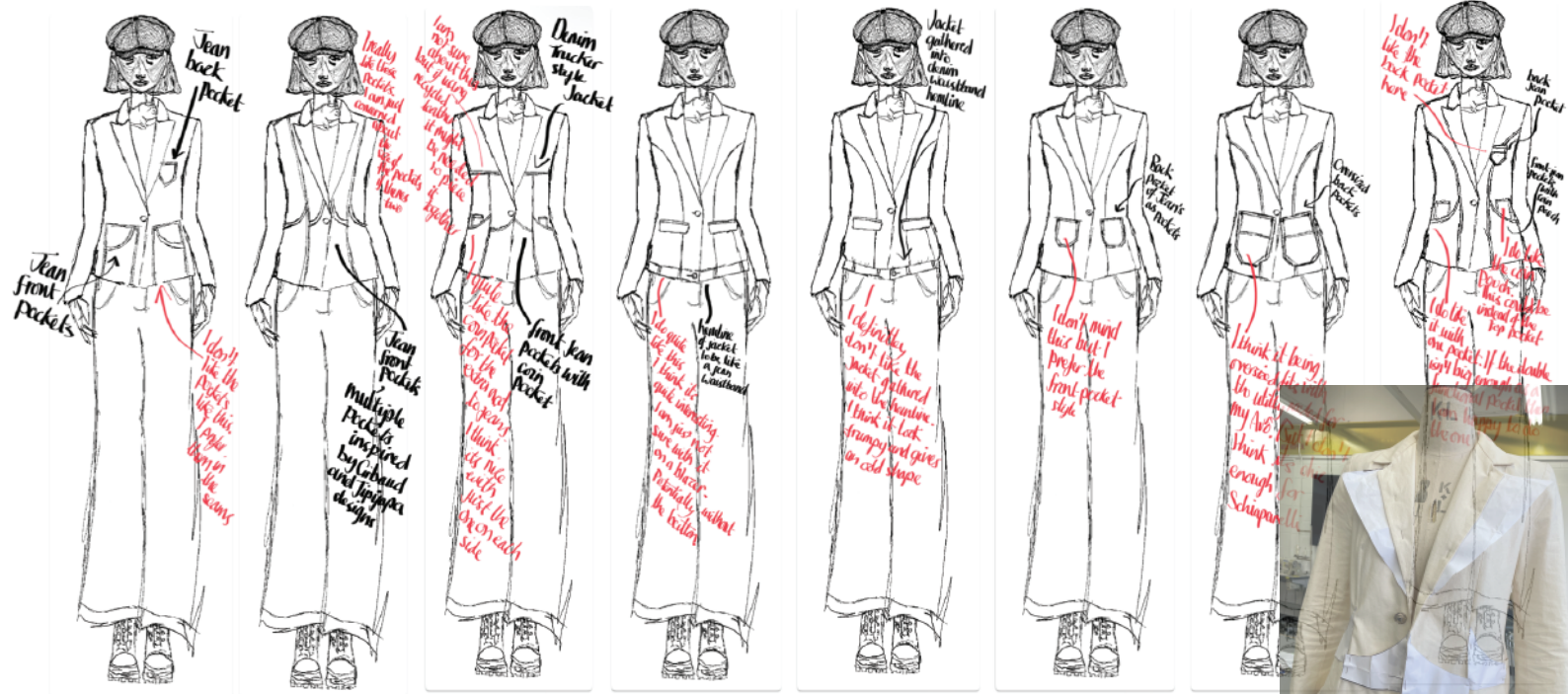
My avô is an incredible man who has always inspired me. In the 1970s, he built his own home, bringing materials back from Germany. Portugal is renowned for its beautiful hand-painted azulejos tiles, which decorate streets and buildings across the country. My avô's house is completely covered in these tiles, and I felt compelled to incorporate their unique patterns and colours into my design development.

Inside his home, dark, heavy furniture and classic Chesterfield sofas create a rich, tactile environment, which led me to explore working with leather for my designs. I was also deeply inspired by the innovative leather craftsmanship of Daniel Roseberry for Schiaparelli, which influenced both my silhouettes and leather experimentation. Beyond architecture and interiors, my avô's life as a farmer continues to shape my creative vision. At 89, he still works tirelessly on our family's fruit and vegetable farm in Odiáxere, a village in the Algarve where there is no Wi-Fi or modern distractions. Each summer, I join him there to help plant, water, and pick produce for the morning markets. The farm is an oasis and a place where I escape the fast pace of life in the UK.

His style as a farmer—practical, functional, and consistent—also influences my work. He wears the same outfit every day, embodying a timeless simplicity and utility that I translate into my designs.

My collection draws on these personal connections, blending heritage, craftsmanship, and modern luxury to create leather pieces that tell a meaningful story

JEAN POCKETS



One of my favourite features of the tailored blazer is the jean-inspired pockets, drawn from my avô's own denim workwear. I love how the minimalistic, sleek pocket design complements the sharp structure of a tailored leather blazer, creating a modern, industrial, and sophisticated aesthetic.

Throughout the development process, I created numerous prototypes, experimenting with different leather layers to achieve the cleanest, most refined finishes while reducing bulk at the pocket corners. I incorporated rivets at the corners as a subtle nod to classic denim construction, transforming them into elegant metal embellishments that add both strength and visual interest.

The double pockets are inspired by the 1980s Girbaud double trouser pocket and reflect the practical utility required in my avô's life as a farmer. These details merge functionality with contemporary design, infusing my blazer with both personal significance and modern craftsmanship.

SCHIAPARELLI SILHOUETTE



The silhouette of my tailored blazer draws inspiration from the sculptural and avant-garde work of Daniel Roseberry at Schiaparelli. I meticulously drafted the pattern from scratch to achieve a precise, custom fit that accentuates the body's natural lines.

The design features dramatic balloon sleeves that bring a sense of boldness and modern elegance. The substantial weight and luxurious texture of the cow leather allow the blazer to hold its hourglass shape beautifully, creating graceful drape and movement.

Careful tapering at the waist sculpts a striking, feminine silhouette, celebrating the unique properties of real leather while showcasing impeccable craftsmanship. This piece embodies a balance of contemporary artistry and timeless tailoring, transforming traditional leather into a statement of refined innovation.



MOULDED SLEEVES



The moulded leather sleeves in my design were originally inspired by the idea of embossing my avô's tile patterns into the leather. I spent several months working with the engineering department at my university, developing 3D-printed embossing stamps. However, without the right heat equipment, the leather wouldn't hold the emboss, so the idea wasn't feasible.

This challenge led me to discover leather moulding, which I found incredibly exciting. I loved working directly with the leather, shaping it into forms inspired by the decorative tiles on my avô's house. Through experimenting with smocking techniques, I developed dramatic two-piece balloon sleeves, each featuring moulded arches that add texture and sculptural detail.

The volume of the sleeves, combined with flat-felled seams and the natural drape of leather, creates a modern, architectural look. The balloon shape is influenced by Schiaparelli's bold silhouettes, and I'm inspired to scale the moulding even larger in future designs for an even more striking effect.

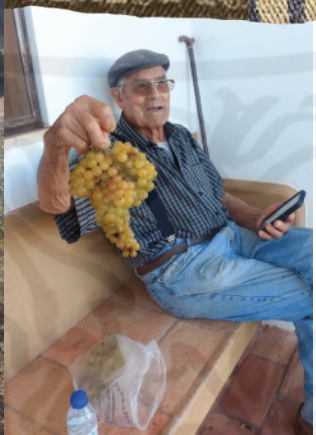
For the bodice, I used a soldering iron to melt subtle tile motifs into the leather surface. These details are understated but catch the light beautifully, creating a sense of quiet luxury and adding depth to the piece.

MY AVO'S HOME TILES ETCHED INTO JEANS

DENIM DETAILS



EDGE TO EDGE
BRACES
FASTENING



FLAT FELLED SEAMS ALL OVER



ETCHED DENIM LINING



JETTED INSIDE POCKET

RIVET
EMBELLISHMENTS

My jacket is heavily inspired by my avô's style, particularly his denim jeans. My blazer design incorporates many details drawn from his clothing, including the shape and construction of his pockets. As a design feature influenced by denim, I chose to use flat-felled seams throughout the blazer. This technique not only references traditional jeans construction but also adds significant strength and durability to the leather, ensuring the jacket will last for years.

Creating a timeless piece was extremely important to me. I believe in making garments that are durable, long-lasting, and crafted with exceptional quality so they can be treasured forever. To reinforce this commitment, I sewed the entire jacket using heavy-duty denim thread. This choice serves both a practical and aesthetic purpose, adding strength while introducing a beautiful copper shine that complements the rivets and the braces fastening.

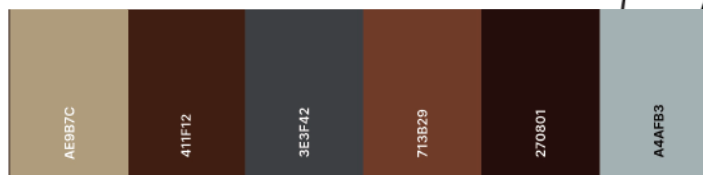
The braces clasp I used as the front closure is another element inspired by my avô's style, bringing a personal and meaningful touch to the design.

The lining of the jacket is one of my favourite details. The front and side lining panels are made from denim etched with patterns of my avô's interior tiles. I love the concept of having his exterior tiles represented on the outside of the jacket and his interior tiles reflected on the inside. I also included an interior jettied pocket, adding extra utility and a touch of classic tailored blazer craftsmanship.



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- MATERIALS USED:
- COW HIDE LEATHER
 - SUEDE
 - DENIM
 - COTTON TWILL
 - RIVETS
 - BRACES CLASP
 - DENIM THREAD



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