

RLSD Africa 2025

Project Title: Crowned Grace

Category: Apparel

Competition Entry: Africa 2025

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STORYBOARD

The storyboard for Crowned Grace captures a modern African couture experience, blending natural elegance with innovative design. The visual flow begins in a tranquil, earthy setting—sunlight filtering through palm fronds and the soft rustle of nature’s textures. This opening scene pays homage to the raw materials that define the dress: coconut shells, cowhide leather, raffia, and natural feathers.

Next, the viewer is introduced to the dress through hand-rendered sketches, displaying the front and back views. The corset-style bodice draws strength from traditional African leatherwork, forming a deep sweetheart neckline. A delicate choker, seamlessly attached to the front of the corset, reflects regal simplicity. The skirt, sleek and fitted, features petal-like leather structures layered at the front, creating subtle movement and symbolic growth. At the waistline, a detachable raffia tail cascades behind like a ceremonial veil—graceful, organic, and unbound.

In the final frame, the model walks into the distance, the raffia tail flowing with every step. The gloves, adorned with feathers at the openings, catch a gust of wind, softly framing the elegance of the entire ensemble. The visual narrative closes in harmony with nature, emphasizing a future where fashion and sustainability coexist.

DESIGN INSPIRATION

The inspiration behind Crowned Grace is rooted in the essence of African femininity—its beauty, strength, and regal presence. The design seeks to tell a story of tradition reimagined through contemporary eyes. In many African cultures, adornment has symbolized power, identity, and respect. This project honors that heritage by creating a dress that feels both timeless and boldly modern.

Nature is not just an aesthetic choice—it’s the soul of this design. Materials like cowhide leather, raffia, and coconut shell aren’t just sustainable, they’re deeply tied to Africa’s land, people, and artisanal history. The feathers, used sparingly, add lightness and motion to contrast the grounded strength of leather.

The silhouette takes its cues from princess-like elegance—form-fitting at the top with structural detail, then softening toward the bottom with petal elements and the airy raffia tail. The piece is

meant to empower the wearer while telling a story of balance: between boldness and grace, tradition and innovation, nature and design.

DESIGN DRAWINGS

CROWNED GRACE

FRONT VIEW



BACK VIEW



Corset-style upper bodice in soft cowhide leather
Fitted skirt with front-facing leather petal elements
Detachable raffia tail flowing from the waist downward at the back
Leather choker attached at the front center of the bodice
Gloves with feather detailing at the openings
Coconut shell embellishments at bodice edges for earthy accents

MATERIALS USED

Cowhide leather (main structural and decorative material; over 50% of surface)
Raffia fiber (for the detachable tail; lightweight and biodegradable)
Coconut shell (used in hand-cut embellishments)
Feathers (ethically sourced; adorn glove openings)
Recycled lining fabric (interior finishing)
Leather cords (used in corset lacing and choker fastening)

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Corset: Structured and boned cowhide leather bodice with lace-up back using leather cords. Deep sweetheart neckline with choker attachment at front center.

Skirt: Slim-fit base with hand-cut leather petals layered at the front only.

Tail: Lightweight raffia strands woven into a detachable belt that secures at the waist back. Designed for fluid motion and volume without weight.

ACCESSORIES:

Leather gloves extend to mid-forearm, fastened with hidden snaps, and finished with soft feather trim at the openings.

Choker is shaped to follow the neckline contour, attached at the corset and fastened at the back with a hook or tie system.