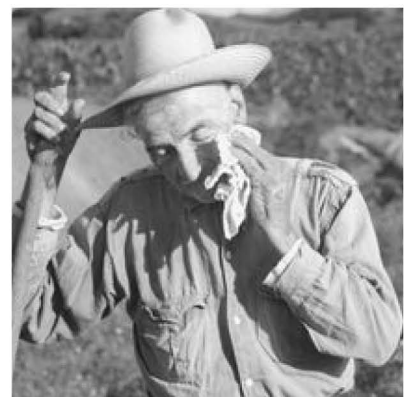
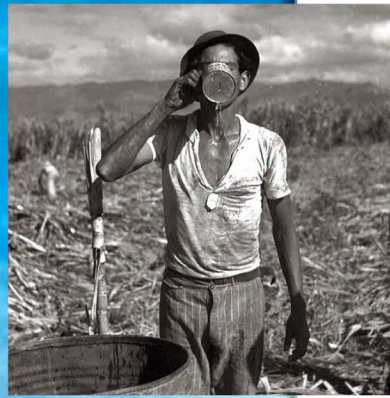


SPRING/SUMMER 2026
MANCHA DE PLÁTANO

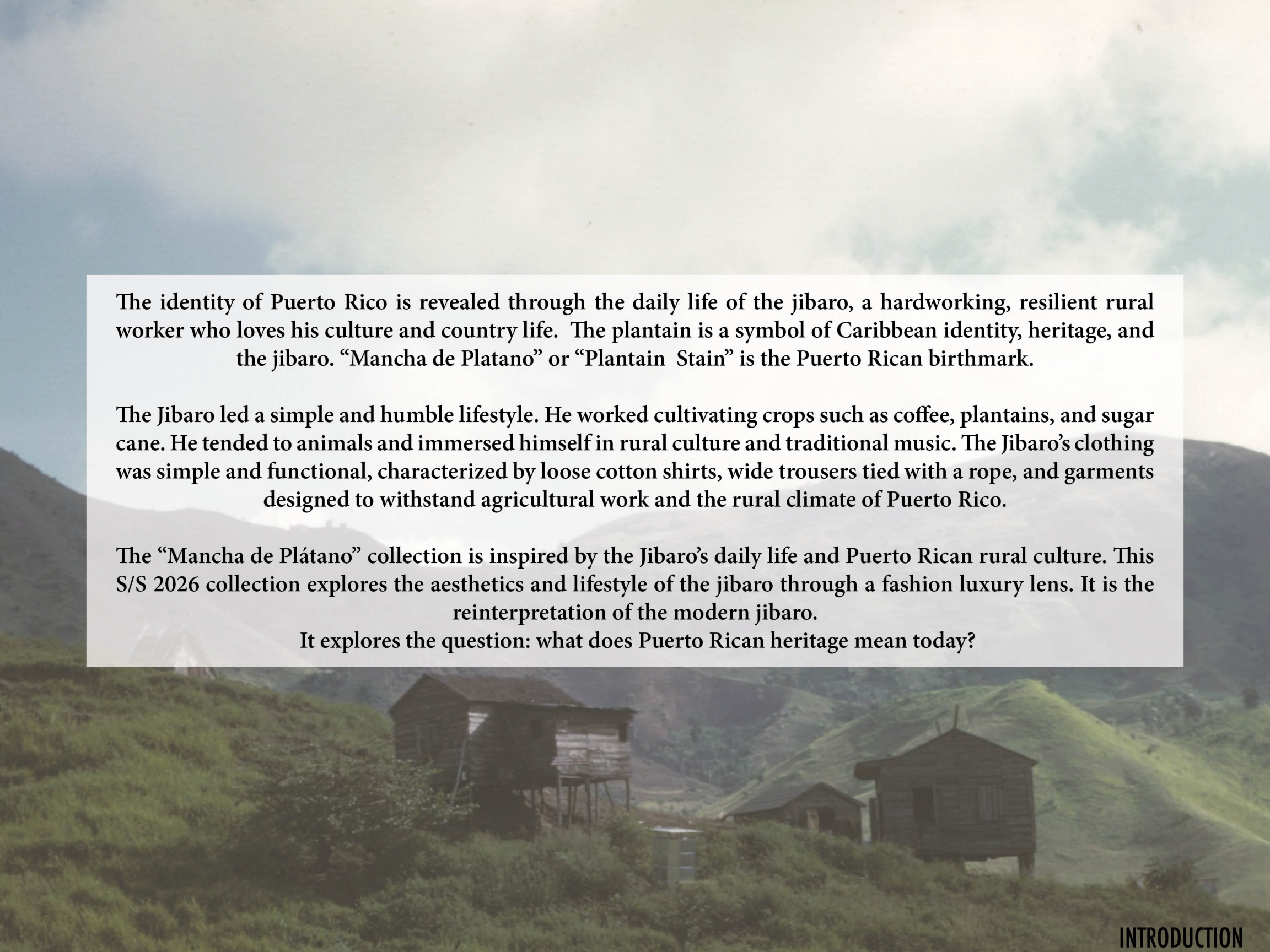
BY VALERIA MARTINEZ



FINAL GARMENT



MOODBOARD



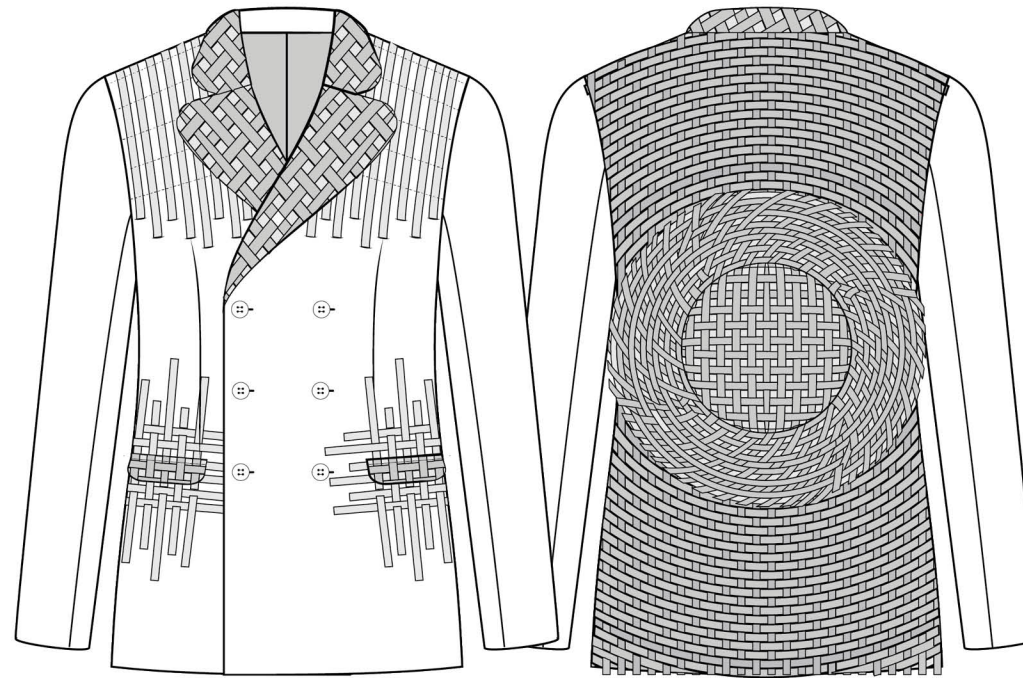
The identity of Puerto Rico is revealed through the daily life of the jibaro, a hardworking, resilient rural worker who loves his culture and country life. The plantain is a symbol of Caribbean identity, heritage, and the jibaro. “Mancha de Platano” or “Plantain Stain” is the Puerto Rican birthmark.

The Jibaro led a simple and humble lifestyle. He worked cultivating crops such as coffee, plantains, and sugar cane. He tended to animals and immersed himself in rural culture and traditional music. The Jibaro’s clothing was simple and functional, characterized by loose cotton shirts, wide trousers tied with a rope, and garments designed to withstand agricultural work and the rural climate of Puerto Rico.

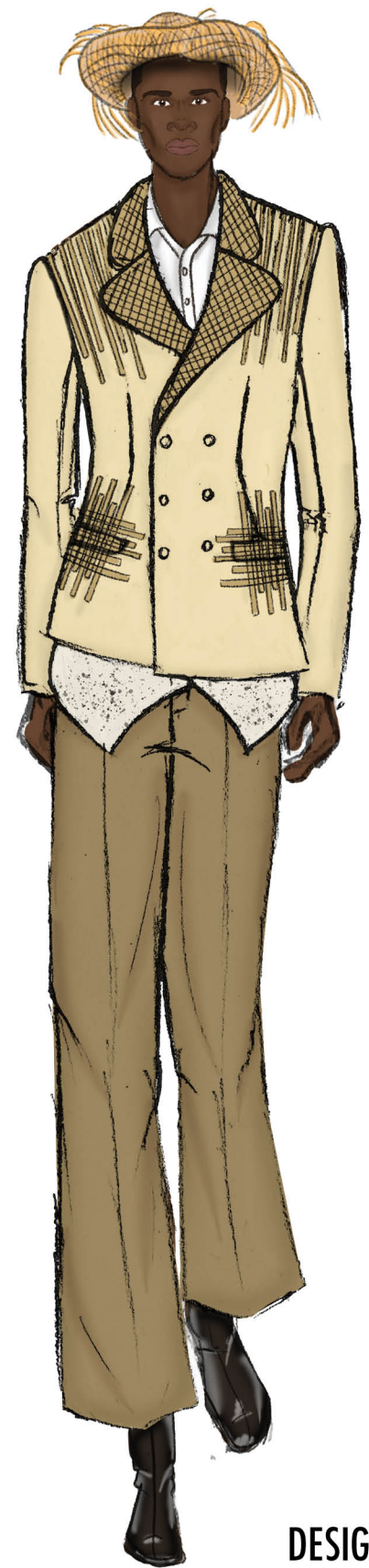
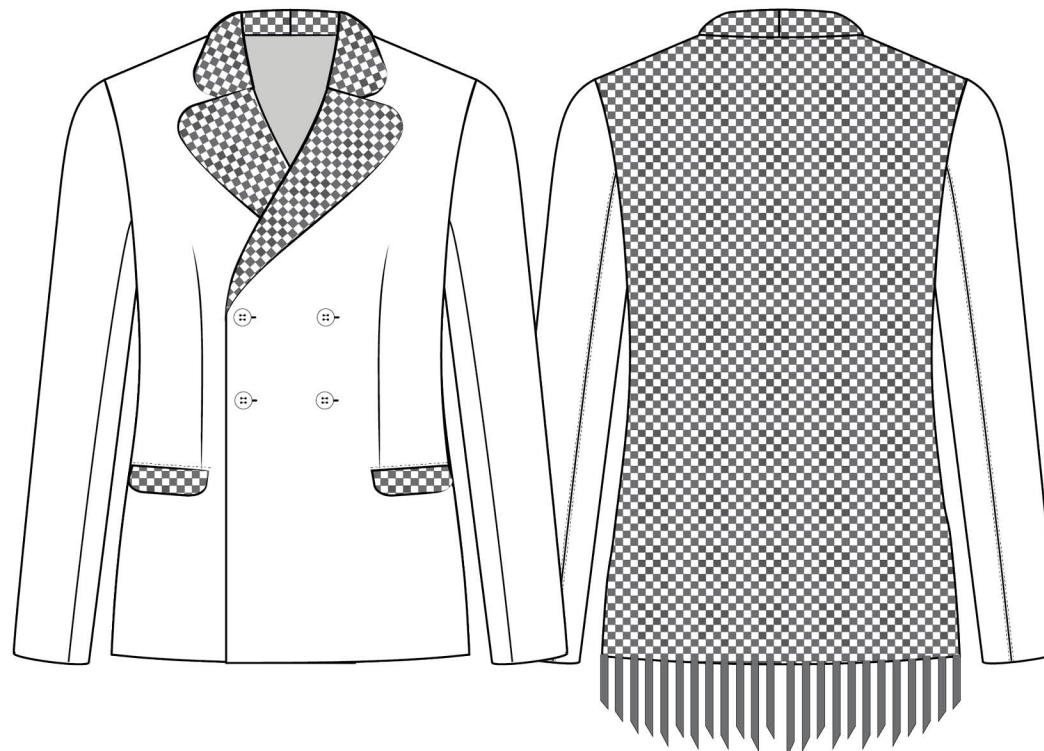
The “Mancha de Plátano” collection is inspired by the Jibaro’s daily life and Puerto Rican rural culture. This S/S 2026 collection explores the aesthetics and lifestyle of the jibaro through a fashion luxury lens. It is the reinterpretation of the modern jibaro.

It explores the question: what does Puerto Rican heritage mean today?

INITIAL SKETCH



FINAL



DESIGN

LAMBSKIN LEATHER

1/4" CALF CRAFT LACE

LEATHER COVERED BUTTONS

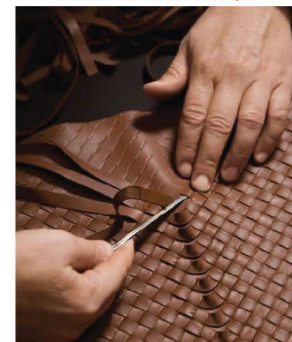
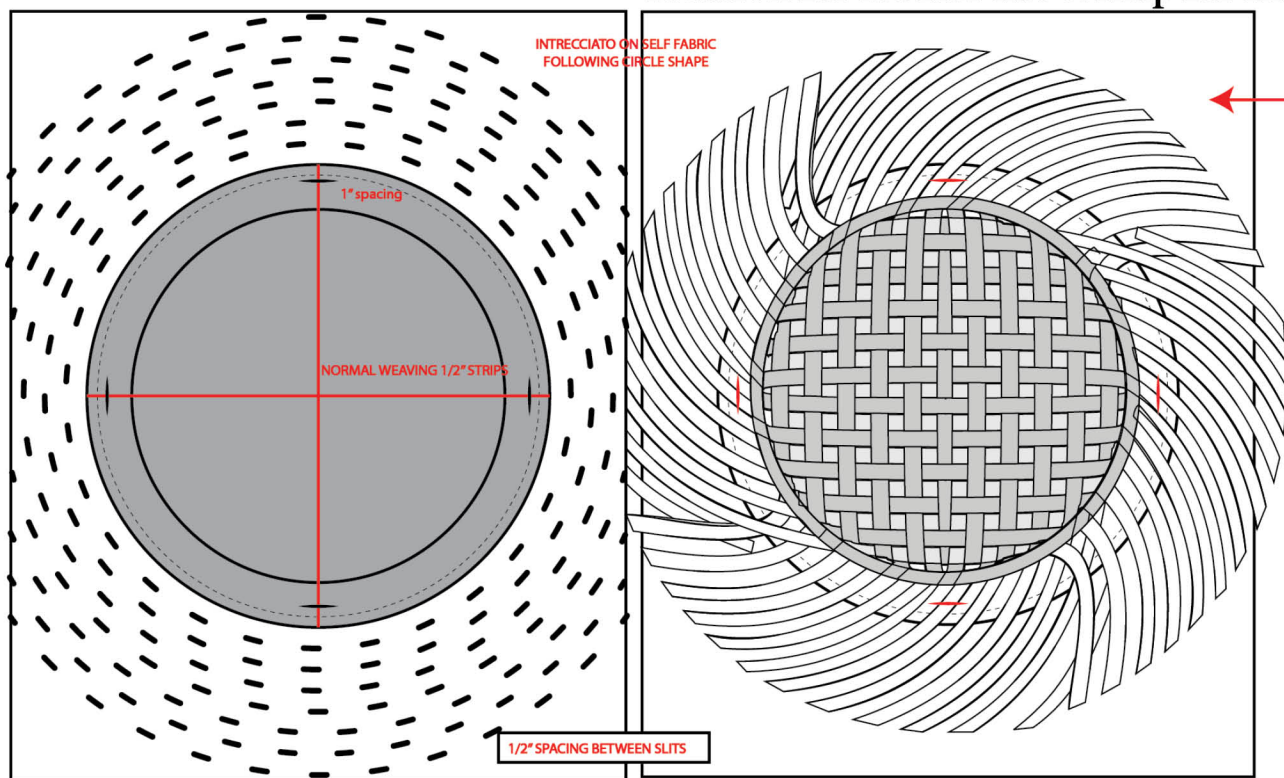


The Pava Hat is a key item in the Jibaro's outfit. This hat was woven out of Yarey palm leaves. Jibaros wore this hat to protect themselves from the intense tropical sun during long workdays in sugarcane and coffee fields. Nowadays, it is a symbol of Puerto Rican identity and resilience from our ancestors.

For this project, I wanted to recreate the Pava Hat in leather. Initially, my suit jacket design included a handmade leather hat on the back of the jacket. Through trial and error, I ultimately decided to use the intrecciato technique to reinterpret the weaving of the Pava Hat.

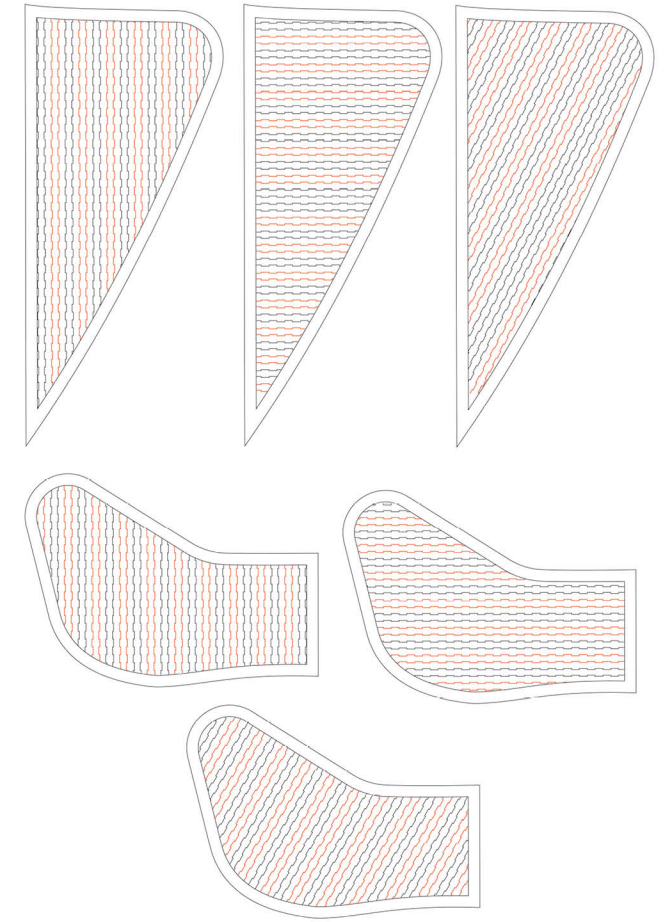
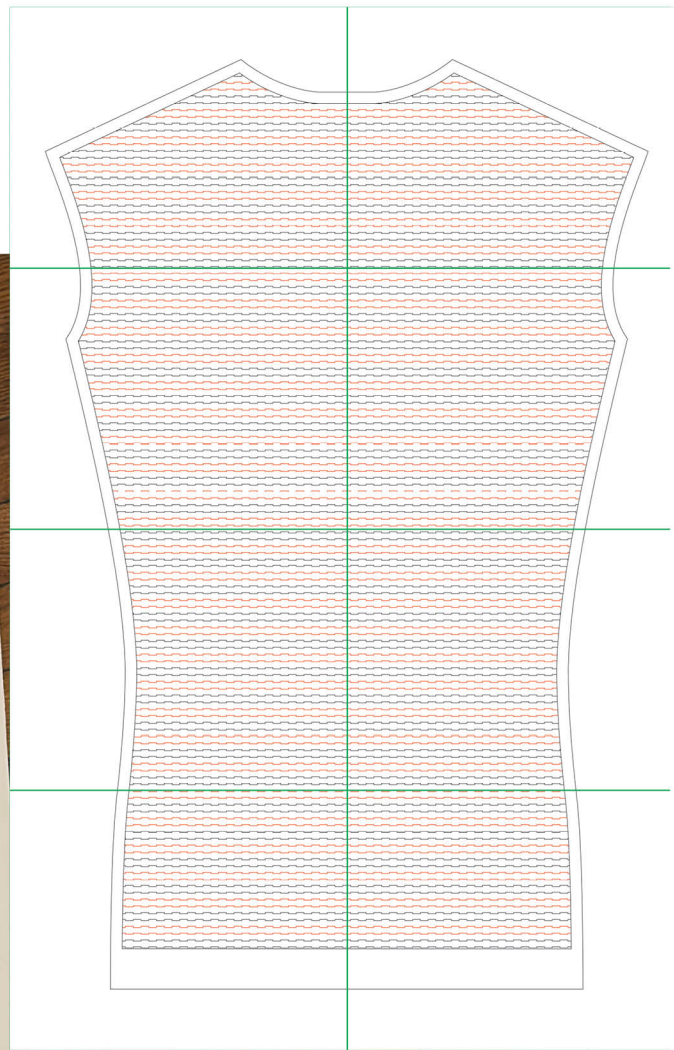


Before deciding not to move forward with the initial design featuring the hat, I explored with several techniques. I first wove the hat using leather strips and then refined the weaving through the intrecciato technique. This technique is done by cutting slits into the leather and weaving strips of leather. Although the final exploration was successful, I chose not to include the hat in the final design, as it did not support the overall balance of the garment.



Ideation for leather hat & map for intrecciato.

I created an intrecciato map in Adobe Illustrator and placed it flat on the cut piece. Then, I made each slit using a hammer and chisel to weave the calf lace into the lambskin leather.



PROCESS

