



Riders

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Wood David



Polo is a team sport played on horseback, in which players aim to drive a small ball through the opposing team's goal. At its core, polo is an athletic game, yet it also embodies a complex aesthetic and serves as a broad source of visual inspiration. Beyond the rules of play, polo is shaped by clear codes and conventions regarding the appearance of the players, their uniforms, and various visual aspects of the game. Due to the sport's history and the way it entered Western culture, as well as the meanings embedded in its practice and its distinct visual characteristics, polo has become a symbol of status, class, and masculinity. The aesthetics of polo, together with its social and cultural associations, resonated with me both personally and as a designer. They became a starting point for designing new systems of dress that contain tensions related to status, masculinity, sport, and leisure, while focusing on the visual elements of the polo rider.

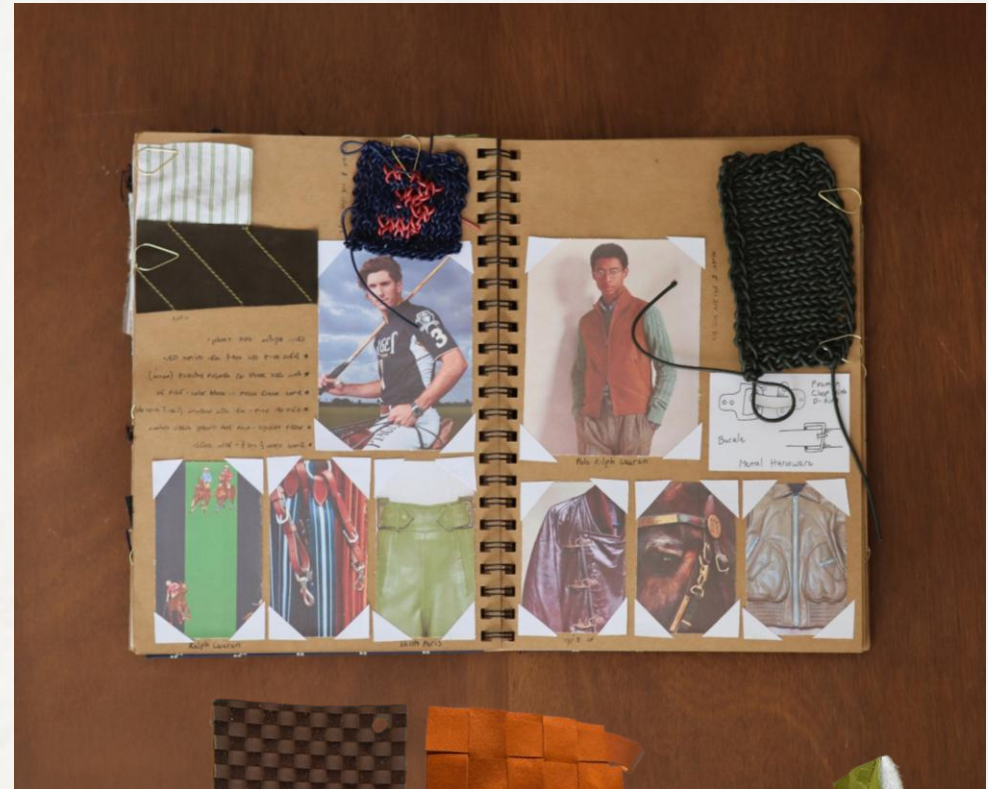


Materials

The visual language of the polo game stands at the heart of this project. It is made up of iconic cuts, traditional textures, and a rich variety of surfaces. These elements led me to explore different types of leather and leather treatments, as well as the relationship between traditional tailoring, appropriation, and renewal. Through various material manipulations, I aimed to give each layer of the clothing system its own distinct character, despite the use of similar materials. This was achieved through color, stitching, cutting, and other design interventions. I chose to base my project on cowhide leather to achieve a slightly rigid and structured look, in contrast to the sportiness and lightness of the lower garments and of the game of polo in general.



Manipulations

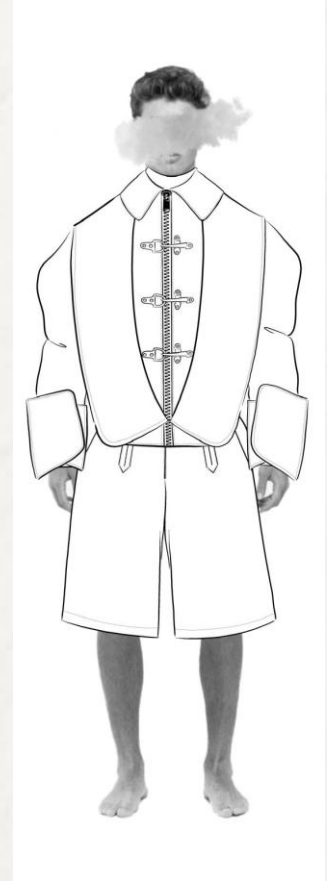
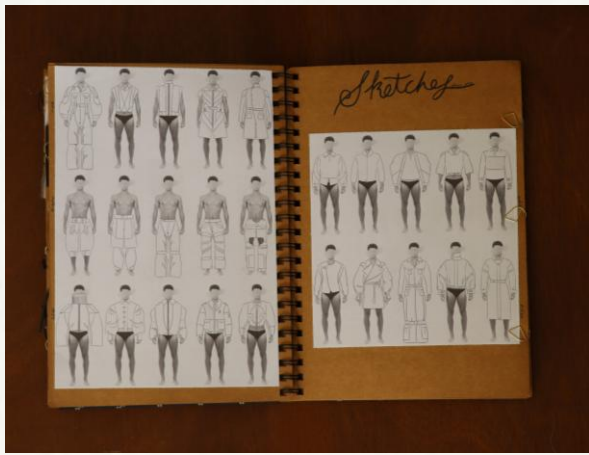


Quilting; Stitching; Knitting; Weaving

Sketches

Development through collage-based techniques

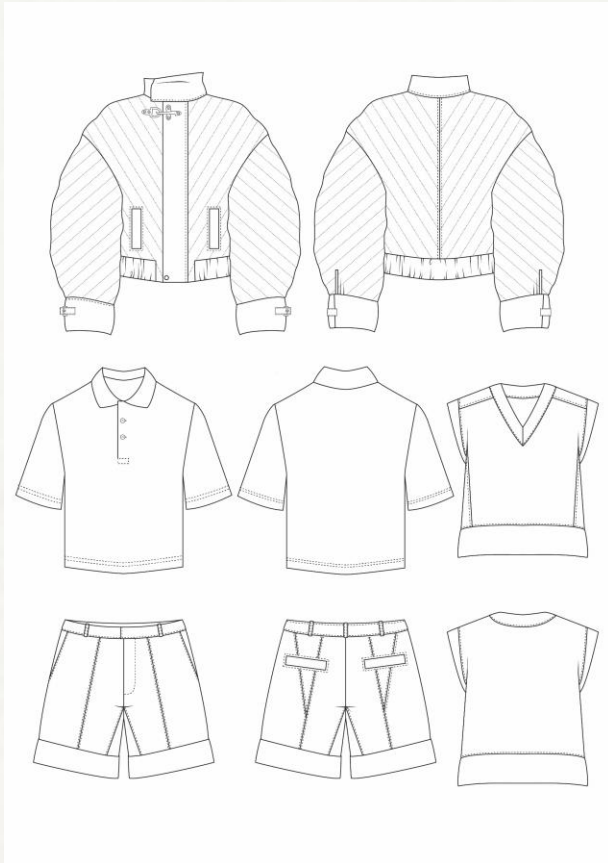




The Collection



Quilted jacket made of cowhide
leather with cotton lining
Knitted vest made from cowhide
leather cords
Trousers made of cow nappa
leather
Polo shirt made of cotton piqué
Bag made of lamb leather



Work Process

Toile fitting



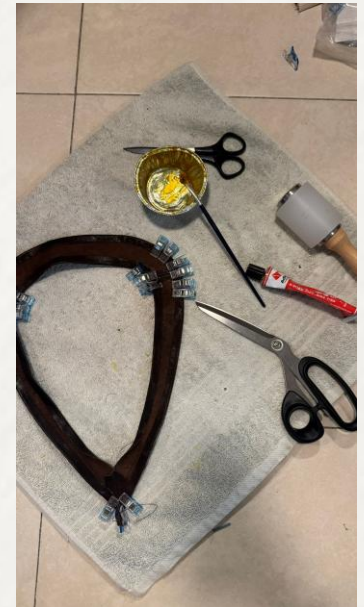
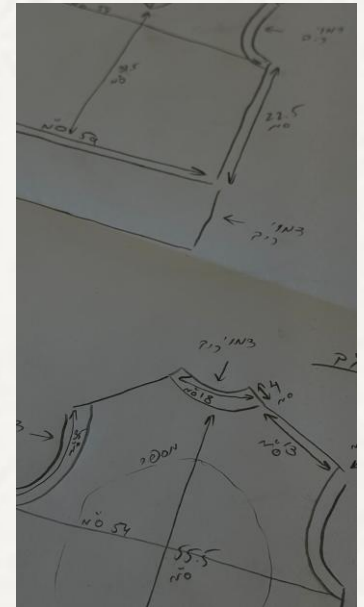
Jacket making



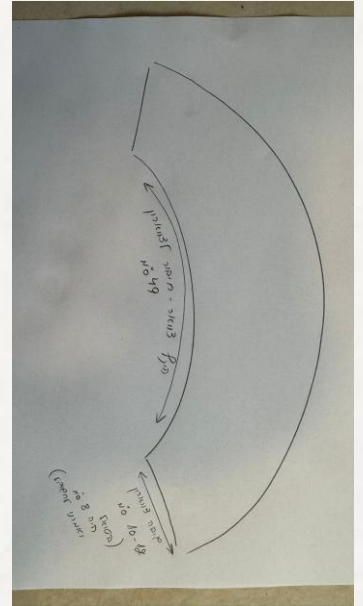
Shorts Making



A close-up photograph of a dark, heavily textured, and frayed fabric, likely a piece of clothing or a bag. The fabric has a complex, possibly woven or knitted pattern, and the edges are frayed and worn down, revealing underlying layers and colors like red and yellow. The overall appearance is one of significant wear and age.



Polo shirt and bag making

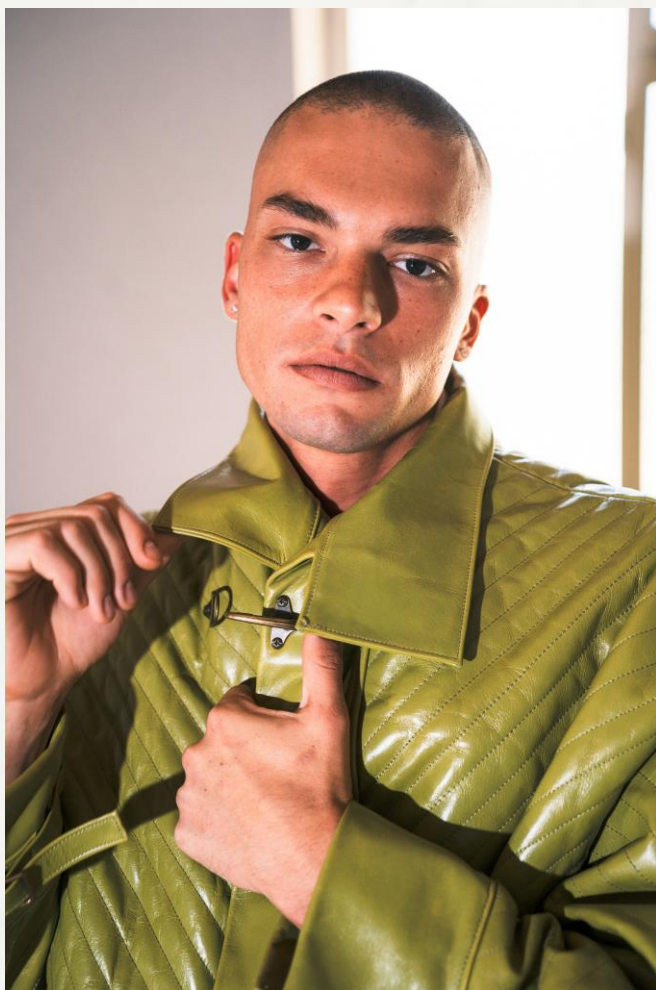


Final fitting



Final Look









Details