Empowerment through design examines the intersection of utility, necessity and quality to better serve the modern woman. Soft tailoring techniques and thoughtful pattern engineering create garments that provide comfort and freedom of movement, seeking to serve the body rather than sexualize it.

Inspiration is drawn from the female empowerment of the Dutch Golden Age. Seventeenth century Dutch society saw a social restructuring that allowed women's roles to expand beyond the home, causing gender distinction in garments to lessen. Social and economic prosperity was represented in both male and female costume as voluminous sleeves, wide collars and intricate pleating details executed in luxurious, natural fabrics.

The process of an engineer and a designer are one and the same: conceiving, innovating and creating to artfully bring something about. I propose to present the elements of this research to reconcile design as a form of engineering in a way that reflects my own analytical approach to fashion design. There is particular emphasis on advanced patternmaking, tailoring and construction techniques that emphasize the calculation and craftsmanship involved in translating conceptual design into a wearable form.

Empowering feminine design through the application of historic reference to assert fashion design as a form of engineering.