

Problem-based Design For Lifeguard Clients

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Problem

- Lifeguard swimwear sacrifices function to fashion and sex appeal.
- The challenge was to retain fashion appeal but resolve functional issues.

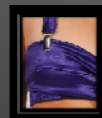
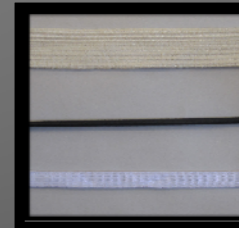
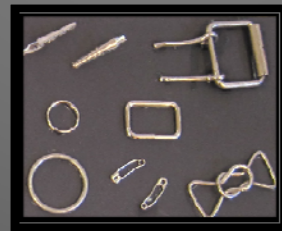
Inspiration

- As a lifeguard, I know the hazards that swimwear could cause such as not staying on well when rescuing swimmers.
- Flattering the natural curves of a women's body with triangles was my aesthetic solution to visual options.
- The 1964 Rudi Gernreich monokini presented an intriguing solution to explore.
- The tether effect that transformed bikinis into monokinis met functional and aesthetic design needs.



Research

- Selecting among high stretch textiles and support materials took a great deal of experimentation.
- The invention of tan-through textiles and compatible color/design palette was a multi-option exploration.
- In addition, fasteners that grip the body while being innovative came from delving into the science of materials.



Techniques

- Swimsuits were draped in two-way stretch nylon/spandex knit directly on the models' bodies.
- Round elastic that was normally used for shoelaces was substituted for typical swimwear elastic to get narrow channel effect and optimal alignment to body contours.



- Eden Travel International Design Award:
- Internship with International Designer Zandra Rhodes Summer 2010
- International Textile and Apparel Association Juried Exhibition