

Linda Simpkins

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Creative Fashion Professional with highly proficient skills honed in the garment industry. Extensive experience encompassing every aspect of garment development including design, production, sourcing and management combined with a keen color sense, high taste level and long established interpersonal relationships in the fashion industry. A passionate self-starter with exemplary organization and communication skills; focused to manage and prioritize multiple projects.

Experience

- 2009-2012 LINDA SIMPKINS, Brooklyn, NY
Freelance Designer/Builder
Design and build stage costumes for Grammy winning singer Angelique Kidjo
Design and build original garments for private clients including wedding gowns and daywear
- 2007-2009 URBAN ZEN, LLC, a Donna Karan Company, New York, NY
Associate Designer, "Urbanwear"
Developed garments for Urban Zen retail store in collaboration with Ms. Karan and Head Designer
Established extensive fabric resources in Europe, Japan and United States
Attended trade shows: Première Vision-Paris and New York
Maintained strong relationships with mills and agents from designer level to novelty goods
Purchased and tracked all fabrics and trim for sampling and production
Selected and prepared all color ways, approved all labs
Coordinated print development
Prepared presentation displays each season for collection inspiration
- 2005-2007 URBAN ZEN, LLC, a Donna Karan Company, New York, NY
Freelance Associate Designer, Couture
Assisted with the design and manufacture of couture gowns for celebrities
Sourced, purchased, and tracked all fabrics and approved all color labs
Managed sample room employees and daily work flow
- 1993- 2003 MARY JANE MARCASIANO a division of Marisa Christina Apparel, Inc., New York, NY
Associate/Technical Designer, Knitwear and Woven Collections
Developed fashion forward product for three "Marcasiano" labels in collaboration with Head Designer
Established and expanded fabric resources with European and domestic mills
Purchased and tracked all fabric and yarn for each season, approved all lab dips and color ways
Conducted and directed all fittings
Produced technical knitwear packages containing detailed specifications
Corresponded with overseas counterparts in implementing knitwear designs
- 1992-1999 ALBERT NIPON, New York, NY
Designer, Private Label Dresses
Designed dresses for catalogs: Talbot's, Anne Taylor, Barrie Pace, Carroll Reed

Education

Master of Science - 1990, Fashion Design, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Awards

National Finalist - Concours International Des Jeunes Createurs De Mode, 1988
Best Design by a Graduate Student - Drexel University, 1989
Dolores Quinn Award for Design Innovation- Drexel University, 1989