

# THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

STAFF REPORTER

**F**IBRES of My Avatar is the theme of this year's fashion show by the Durban University of Technology's department of fashion and textiles, to be held from next Wednesday to Friday at the Fred Crookes Sports Centre on the Steve Biko campus on Durban's Berea.

The event will showcase the designs of 40 third-year students, with the best 20 ranges featured at the final showing.

"This year's theme was chosen to drive the designers to think outside the box, to adopt a persona as well as to concentrate on appearance and manifest an alter ego," says the acting head of department, Sunthra Moodley.

"Hopefully this will enable risk-taking and a change of perspective on why, and with what, we choose to adorn our bodies and what intricate layers and fibres make up our beings."

Students were tasked to put together a cohesive collection of seven fully accessorised outfits that are reflective of their personal development, style and character.

Adds Moodley: "This year's theme focused on a journey of self-discovery of the designer – a journey to express their identity and make a social statement.

"All ranges are visually well presented with the right amount of creativity, innovation and style.

"It involved visual thinking, planning and co-ordination and the show boasts a

diverse range, from avant garde to commercial clothing."

This year's panel of judges will include established designers from the fashion industry.

Sponsored prizes will be awarded to the best designers in such categories as Most Innovative Range, Most Commercial Range, Best Range on Show, Best Technical Range and Best Menswear Range.

"The months of dedication and commitment of the final-year students always culminates in a fashion show, which is a much-celebrated event. The show affords them a platform to expose their current talent by meeting and fulfilling a design brief.

"They have chosen fabrics, embellishments, accessories and considered various elements, including personal style and focus on quality, to showcase their work," says fashion and textiles lecturer Meena Bagwandin.

Tickets for the show cost R50 and are available at Computicket and at the door.

For more info telephone 031 373 3711 or 031 373 3750.

**RIGHT:**

Collette Hertz's range is inspired by her late father, who was passionate about aviation. She used leather and denim for her designs.

**FAR RIGHT:**

Inspired by Roman gladiators and by the movies *Troy* and *300*, Pelican Masinga's designs feature denim and leather

