



Atelier Interloper

AN M.A.RCH '24 THESIS BY ISABEL JANE MARVEL

You wouldn't dare touch a piece of fiberglass insulation with your bare hands, let alone wear a jacket made out of it ...

So why fill a building with it ?

"Waste Coats"
Denim insulation jacket,
Tyvek Jacket;
Cork Chaps
Utility Pocket Belt (blue)
Upcycled Marine upholstery tote (orange)



Atelier Interloper

Architects and builders routinely specify toxic materials (like fiberglass insulation) for construction projects that they would never dare touch with bare hands, let alone wear a garment made out of it. So why fill a building with such harmful material? Atelier Interloper is a nimble fabrication studio that intervenes in job site and manufacturer waste streams and recuperates over-ordered/excess/“end-of-roll” industrial materials that are no longer usable at the scale of the building but are viable at the scale of the body.

The premier collection of garments is workwear-inspired and made from industrial materials such as Tyvek and 100% Recycled Denim building insulation, which have inherent performance properties that protect and thermally enclose the body at its own scale. Putting these materials on the body makes visible materials that, though part of our daily lives, are hidden within a wall system, fostering awareness and education on issues of material health, labor, and general well-being. It also provides an opportunity to not rely on larger built spaces for shelter, a concept increasingly important when considering issues of material use and waste, and growing climate precarity.

Denim Insulation Suit with detachable work gloves, high visibility reflective collar, snap closures, and neon fly zipper taken from a construction vest.



Who are we?

Atelier Interloper is a small design studio working at the intersection of high-waste industries such as construction and fashion. We make garments out of industrial off-cuts discarded from manufacturers that can no longer be used at the scale of the building but can be used at the scale of the body. The longer we can keep a material in use and out of landfill, the better!

What do we make?

Inspired by workwear, the garment collection will be made entirely out of industrial building materials that are being re-contextualized and reformed to continue their life-cycle, prolonging the inevitable fate in a landfill.

Why is it important?

While not explicitly prescribed as work-wear, the materials used in the garments have inherent performance properties that protect and thermally enclose the body at its own scale; an opportunity to reduce dependence on larger built spaces for shelter, a concept increasingly important when considering issues of material use and waste, growing climate precarity, and increasingly mobile and migratory communities.

Our consumer and discard habits are increasing without sufficient recycling and waste reduction systems to offset or handle it, ending up with acres of landfill wastelands. Additionally, it draws attention to building materials that exist in a specific context, allowing them to both be seen in a new light—rendering visible the invisible components of a building—now visible and on the body, and introduce them to a new industry—fashion.

How we operate:

Currently we are producing prototype garments to introduce example alternative applications for these industrial materials that otherwise have a single function within a single industry. Sourcing the end-of-roll off cuts either by donation from industrial manufacturers, or donated excess materials over-ordered for a job that would otherwise go to landfill.

Public participation:

If you are a contractor, manufacturer, producer, or other role within the construction and building industry, contact Atelier Interloper to collect any unused building materials. We will use what we can and handle recycling or repurposing the rest.

*Cork Chaps laced together with paracord and a metal clasp.
Utility belt made from upcycled textile waste recuperated from a local Creative Re-Use Center in East Providence.
“Shoddy” vest made from upcycled ripstop, stuffed with upcycled textile waste pulp (“Shoddy”), lined with cotton muslin.*



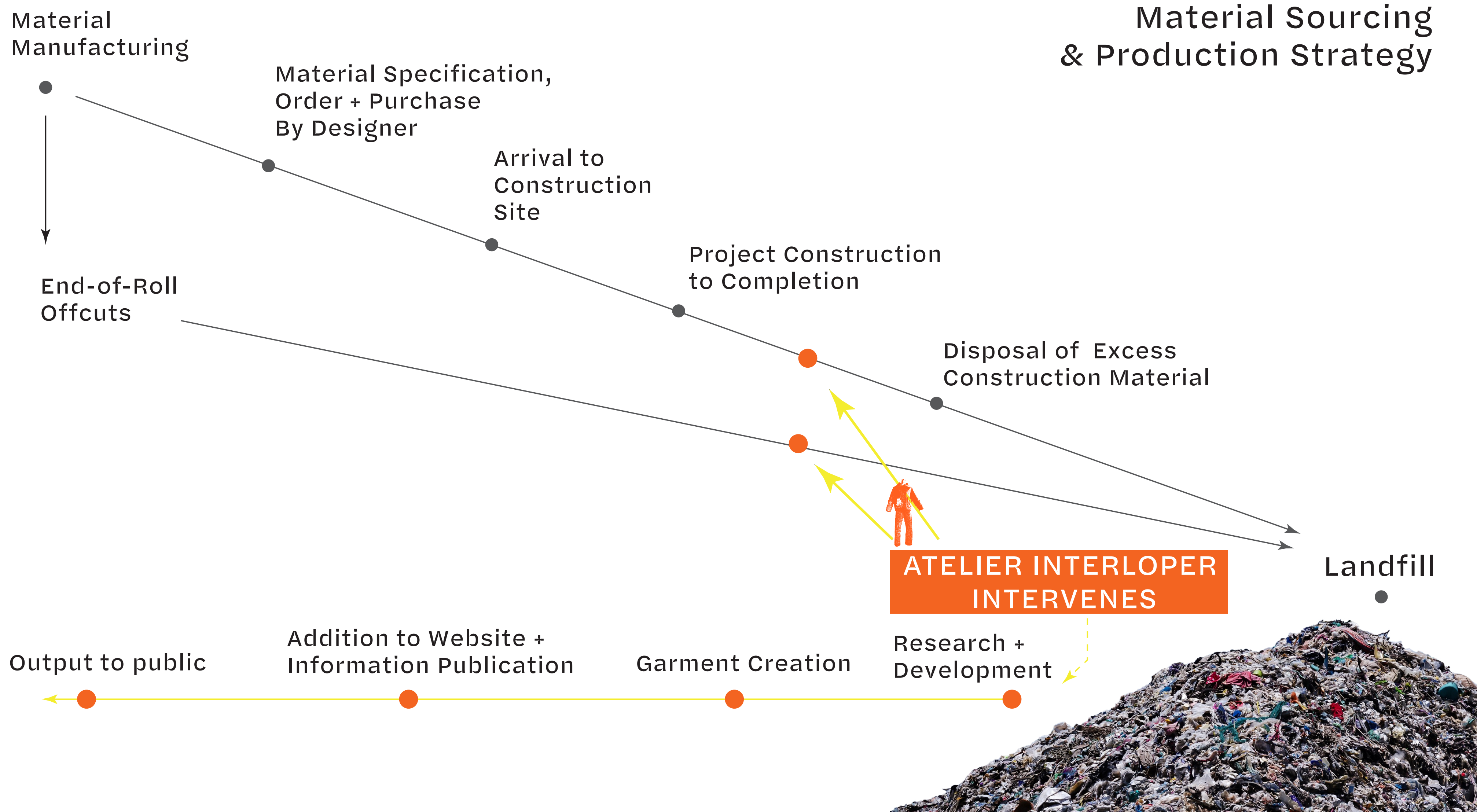


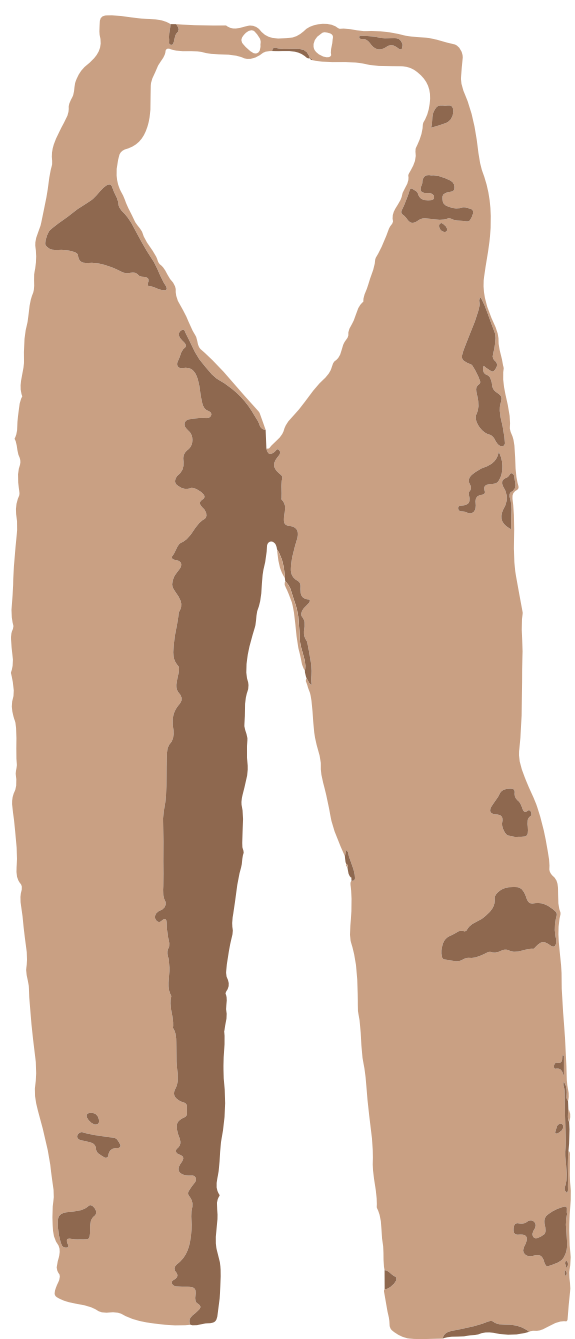
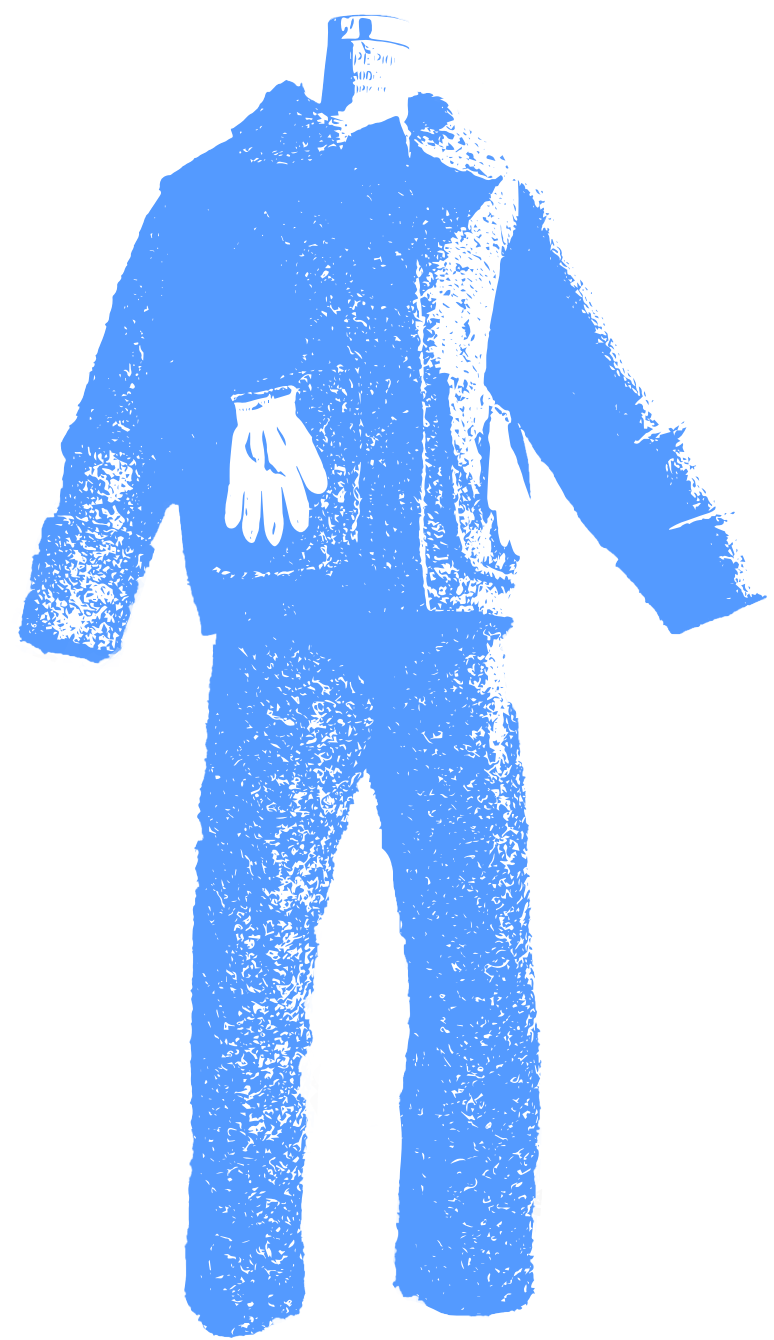
If some 10-15%
of specified
project materials
are unused &
discarded,
how can we
recuperate that
material & divert
it from landfill
?



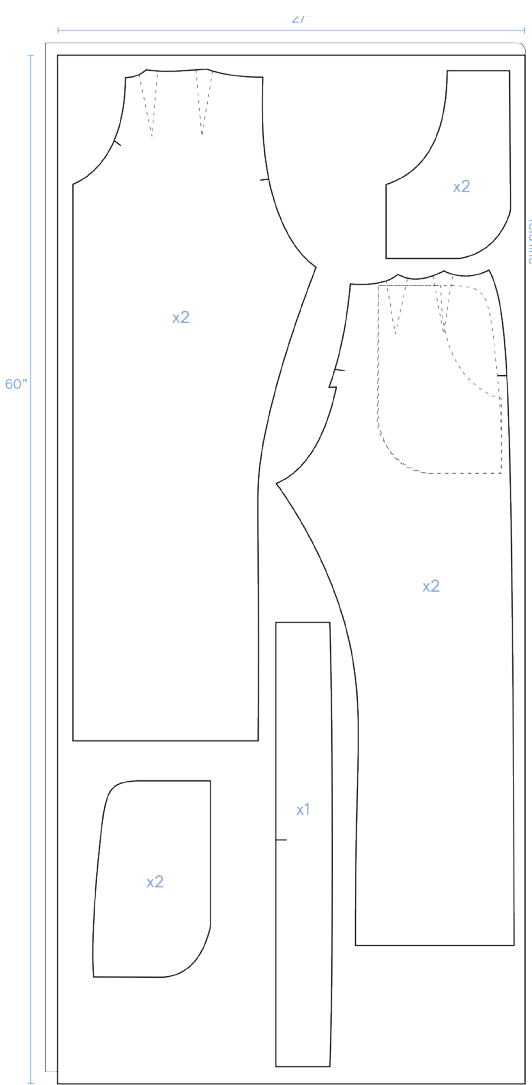
Sourcing Strategy:

Atelier Interloper aims to use exclusively recuperated materials—supplemented, if need be, with fair trade and ethically made materials—sourcing end-of-roll material and off cuts from industrial manufacturers, or receive the excess materials over-ordered for a job that would otherwise go to landfill.



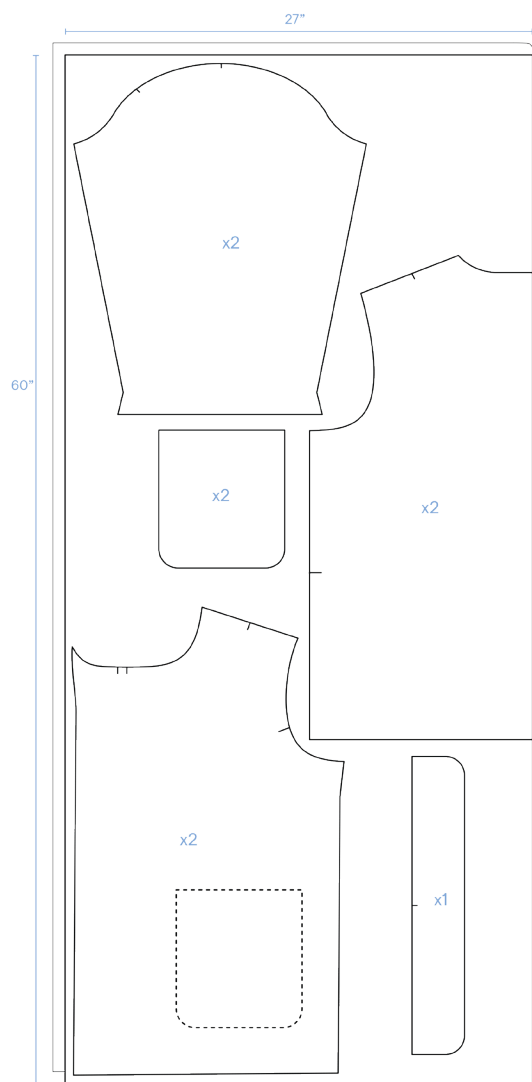
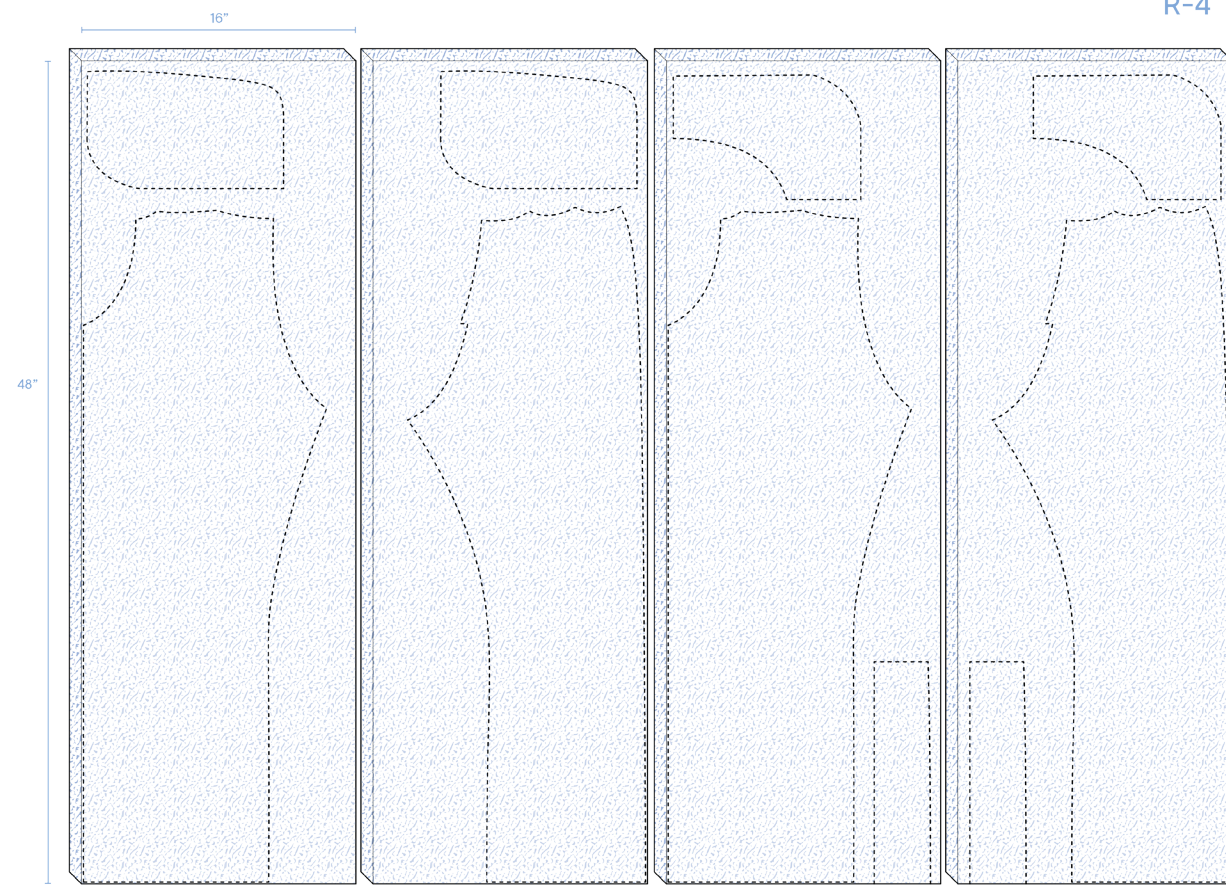






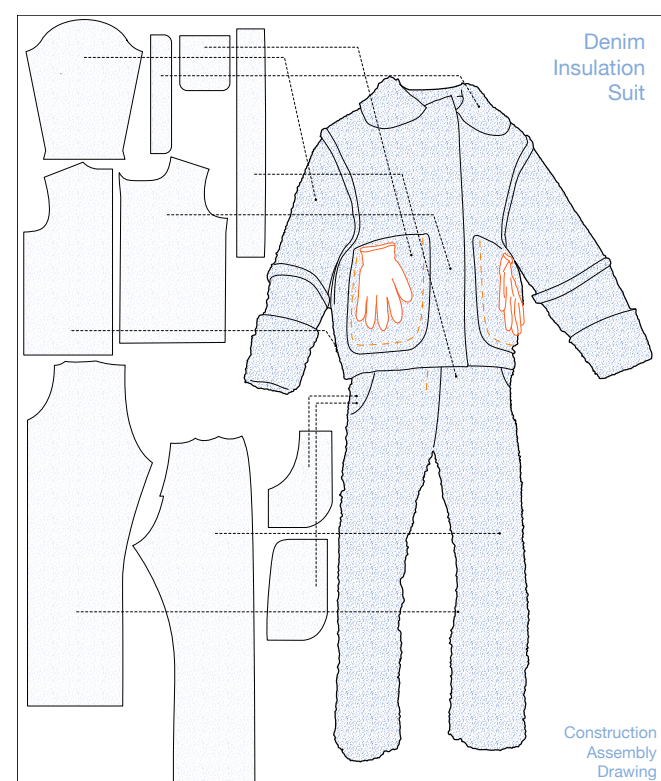
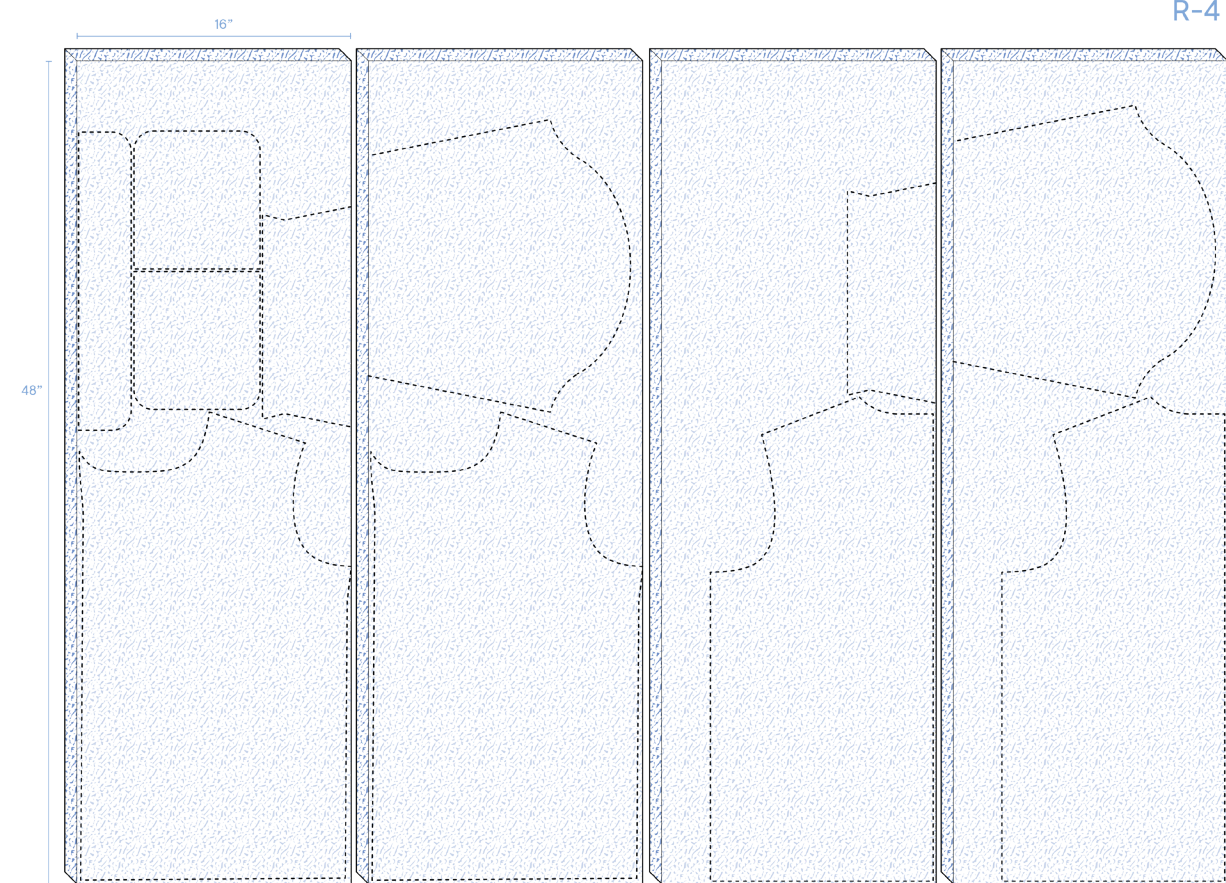
Denim Insulation Pants

x 4 batts of
100% recycled denim insulation,
9.6 oz/ea
R-4



Denim Insulation Jacket

x 4 batts of
100% recycled denim insulation, 9.6
oz/ea
R-4



8 batts of Recycled Denim Insulation from “Frost King” are required to construct the full suit. The scraps can be further shredded and turned into stuffing for pillows, pet beds, toys, or continues to be used as spot-specific insulation pieces to acoustically or thermally insulate something domestic such as a washing machine.



interloper (noun) ·
interlopers (plural
noun)

a person who
becomes involved
in a place or
situation where
they are not
wanted or are
considered not to
belong .

*Cork Chaps laced
Utility pocket belt local
Denim "Shoddy" vest*



