

CLAIRE PARDINGTON

WOMEN'S RTW DESIGNER

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Fashion Designer with 8+ years of experience creating commercially successful women's RTW collections for luxury brands. Proven ability to interpret creative vision into trend-driven product from concept through production, while leading cross-functional teams and managing seasonal timelines. Track record includes driving 35% year-over-year sales growth and launching collections that balance high fashion aesthetics with market demands. Currently gaining direct luxury client insights through a retail management position while seeking a design leadership role.

AREAS OF DESIGN EXPERTISE

Concept Development
Trend Forecasting & Analysis
Garment Construction & Fit
Draping

Embellishment & Finishing Techniques
Line Building & Merchandising
Color Theory & Print Development
Freehand Sketching & Technical Flats

Fabric Sourcing & Selection
Trim Packages
CAD Creation
Fashion Illustration

EXPERIENCE

Assistant Store Manager | ALICE + OLIVIA | New York, NY

2025 – Present

Client Strategy, Market Insight, & Brand Liaison

- Translate luxury client behavior and product performance feedback into actionable insights for design and merchandising teams, identifying fit issues, fabrication concerns, and styling opportunities that inform future collections.
- Selected to advise across all 5 New York stores on leadership, training, and clienteling best practices to strengthen performance.
- Consistently drive \$20-30K in weekly personal sales through styling expertise- even achieving top seller ranking company wide.
- Elevated Bryant Park location to achieving A-level store status by 2026 by managing and mentoring team of 4, fostering sales culture and strengthening client relationships through strategic events and influencer activations.

Founder & Design Director | PARDINGTON COLLECTIVE | New York, NY

2017 – 2024

- Launched ready-to-wear and bespoke women's collection from concept, leading all phases of design development including trend research, illustration, fabric sourcing, pattern making, and merchandising to generate \$30K in pre-sales and build business model projecting \$350K revenue at 50% margin for first RTW collection.
- Differentiated brand in competitive luxury market by collaborating with fine artists on exclusive prints and developing high-concept storytelling framework.
- Secured private clients for red carpet styling and editorial placements through brand visibility and design reputation.
- Directed cross-functional teams including workroom, materials specialists, and pattern makers through proto fittings and sample development, delivering multiple seasonal collections on time while maintaining design integrity and quality execution.
- Created original illustrations, flats, and visual boards to communicate seasonal direction to cross-functional teams.
- Presented seasonal lines to wholesale and sales teams; established and maintained relationships with vendors throughout end-to-end production process.

Senior Designer | VICTORIA'S SECRET | New York, NY

2013 – 2016

Designer Collection (Runway)

- Designed 160+ collections across Very Sexy Collection and Designer Collection runway categories using trend analysis and historical business data, achieving 35% year-over-year sales increase during tenure.
- Led cross-functional teams of 30+ including merchandisers, technical designers, and pattern makers from concept through engineering to commercialization, establishing daily communication protocols with pattern room that reduced sample overdevelopment while meeting all timeline milestones.
- Collaborated directly with VP and SVP of Design to interpret seasonal mood and concept into original hand sketches and CADs; presented designs merchandised by classification to C-Suite of Limited Brands, ensuring all silhouettes and key shapes were covered across deliveries.
- Managed and mentored assistant and associate level designers and interns; led proto fittings with VP and merchandising teams to ensure design vision and fit standards were maintained through timely pattern releases.
- Collaborated cross-functionally with VP and Fabric Team on seasonal direction, prints, and fabrics; partnered with sourcing team on garment development and fit sessions to ensure technical execution aligned with design vision.

- Partnered with Product Development team to launch embroidered and embellished runway garments by developing detailed embroidery layouts and tech packs, maintaining relationships with overseas embellishers and specialty vendors to deliver commercially viable statement pieces.
- Reviewed seasonal fabric and trim selections to ensure newness within line assortment; drove sell-through of core replenishment programs by creating designs that balanced creative vision with merchandising needs.
- Executed high-visibility special projects including magazine editorial requests, charity initiatives, and celebrity designs; created original concepts through hand sketching draping techniques based on seasonal direction.
- Created streamlined design processes for rapid revisions post-presentation with C-Suite, improving team efficiency and reducing resource costs while upholding design integrity and fit expectations.

Associate Designer | VICTORIA'S SECRET | New York, NY

2012 – 2013

Very Sexy Collection

- Developed seasonal concepts and line presentations in collaboration with merchandising and production teams, executing color stories, fabrications, and trim packages that aligned product with customer needs and retail strategies.
- Built detailed tech packs and design specifications with technical designers for cut-and-sew prototypes, ensuring fit and construction met quality standards while managing timelines from initial development to final product.
- Traveled internationally to maintain relationships with manufacturing partners, ensuring product quality and design integrity while staying current on production capabilities and market trends.

Assistant Designer | VICTORIA'S SECRET | New York, NY

2011 – 2012

PINK Collection

- Supported design team in creating tech packs for seasonal collections.
- Conducted market research on product, trim, and graphic techniques to inform design decisions and seasonal direction.
- Created inspiration boards based on seasonal concepts; assisted in design presentations to leadership.
- Uploaded sketches, detail sketches, flats, trim and graphic layouts to PLM; updated CADs through proto and bulk approval process.
- Partnered daily with Product Development team to ensure accurate tech pack handoffs and seamless design-to-production workflow.
- Attended fittings with Technical Design Team to maintain design aesthetic and fit standards throughout development.

Design Intern- Assistant Designer | CALVIN KLEIN COLLECTION | New York, NY

2010 – 2011

Francisco Costa

- Selected by Creative Director Francisco Costa to support him during design and development of seasonal collections. Participated in runway fittings, material selection, fabric manipulation, and styling.

EDUCATION

MBA, Entrepreneurship – University of Michigan's Ross School of Business (2020 – 2022)

Honors: "Entrepreneur of the Year" Award (2022); Admitted to 8 highly selective entrepreneurial and leadership programs

BFA, Fashion Design & Illustration (Women's RTW) – Fashion Institute of Technology (2006 – 2010)

Honors: Selected for prestigious "Fashion Art & Illustration" program Senior year, among current industry leaders like Daniel Roseberry of Schiaparelli

Study Abroad – Politecnico Di Milano (Milan, Italy) (2008 – 2009)

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

Tech pack creation & specifications, embroidery layout design, pattern making oversight, proto fitting, sample room management, quality control

SOFTWARE

Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop, Light Room, InDesign), Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, PLM systems