

RAIA KAOUK

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Portfolio: raikaouk.myportfolio.com/

Educator and Fashion designer with 25 years of industry experience and extensive teaching experience across universities, colleges, and community programs. Expertise in patternmaking, draping, couture techniques, and mentoring students pursuing fashion careers, MFA in Fashion Product Development.

Core Competencies

Fashion Design & Product Development | Teaching & Mentorship | Curriculum Development | Student Assessment | Couture | Communication | Art & Fashion History

Technical Skills

Pattern Making | Draping | Custom Tailoring | Garment Fitting | Client Consultation | Adobe Creative Cloud: Adobe Illustrator (AI), Adobe Photoshop (PS), Adobe Portfolio | CLO3D | PLM | Upcycling | Hand Embroidery

Teaching Experience

High Impact Tutor (HIT) – Math, Fairfax County Public Schools

Fairfax, VA | March 2024 – Present

- Provide targeted instruction for small-group support in mathematics.
- Assess student learning and communicate progress with teachers and parents.

Private Instructor; Fashion Design, Self-Employed

Washington DC & New York, NY | 2008 – Present

- Establish private and small-group classes in fashion illustration, pattern making, draping, and garment construction.
- Mentor high school students preparing portfolios for fashion schools, including FIT, Marymount University, Savannah College, and others.

Adjunct Faculty, Fashion Design, School of Design and Art

Marymount University, Arlington, VA | August 2025 – December 2025

- Taught upper-level draping and garment construction course.
- Provided critiques, demonstrations, and mentorship supporting technical and creative growth.

Substitute Teacher, Fairfax County Public Schools

Fairfax, VA | Jan 2022 – March 2024

- Taught across various classes (K-12): General education, advanced academic placement, special education, emotional needs, and students with multiple disabilities, including Autism.

Fashion Design & Sewing Instructor, G-Street Fabrics

Falls Church, VA & Rockville, MD | 2009 – 2012, 2014 – 2020

- Taught fashion design, pattern making, draping, fashion illustration, sewing, and accessories courses.
- Taught students at various skill levels, from beginner to advanced, across a wide age range.
- Led students in building their fashion careers and directed their research for sourcing, planning, and manufacturing.
- Delivered lectures and conducted workshops for store clients on various aspects of fashion design.

Raia Kaouk

Fashion Design Instructor, Northern Virginia Community College

Annandale, VA | 2010 – 2012, 2014 – 2016

Created a fundamental course in Fashion design for the continuing education program:

- Established course goals, created lesson plans/handouts, and selected art supplies.
- Demonstrated methods to create a collection, including a moodboard, materials, sketching, and illustration.
- Mentored student progress.

Fashion Design & Sewing Instructor, Bullis School

Potomac, MD | 2010 – 2012

- Designed and implemented fashion design curriculum for elementary and middle school students.
- Designed patterns for sewing and accessories classes.

Professional Experience

Fashion Designer & Custom Tailor – Evening Wear, Self-Employed

Washington DC & New York, NY | 2008 – Present

- Operate a custom design business specializing in couture and made-to-measure garments.
- Conduct client consultations, develop patterns, manage fittings, and oversee garment production.

Chief Fashion Designer, LARA Kidswear

Aleppo, Syria | 2004 – 2008

- Led the design team in developing seasonal collections for the girls' department
- Directed trend research, theme planning, fabric sourcing, and prototype approval.
- Collaborated with national suppliers to source premium materials.
- Improved quality control by coordinating with manufacturing teams, saving 10% reduction in labor costs.
- Collaborated with the fashion merchandising team to create store layouts and window displays (30 locations).
- Represented the brand in national fashion shows and trade fairs.

Senior Fashion Designer & Pattern Maker – Evening Wear, Bittar Atelier

Aleppo, Syria | 2001 – 2004

- Designed eveningwear and custom wedding gowns.
- Created patterns, sourced luxury fabrics, and conducted client fittings.

Education

Master of Fine Arts (MFA), Fashion Product Development

Academy of Art University – San Francisco, CA | May 2026 | GPA: 3.56/4.00

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Fashion Design & Pattern Making (Honors)

ESMOD International – Damascus, Syria | 2001

Languages

English • Arabic • French