



MICHAEL KILADA

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SUMMARY

Proven design leader specializing in cocktail, evening, & bridal dresses, with strong men's & women's sportswear experience. Renowned for delivering brand-aligned, commercially successful collections, leading high-performing teams, & mentoring talent. Expertise in pattern making, garment construction, draping, & fit.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Drove **\$1B+ in retail sales** at Ralph Lauren; sold 500K+ units across three core styles
- Increased Jump Design Group **margins from 65% to 70%** Boosted adoption rates from 18% to 45%
- Exceeded Nordstrom's **first-year sales plan by 20%** at Vince Camuto
- Elevated profitability and quality through process overhauls and engineered fit solutions

EXPERIENCE

LA CONFITURE – LUXURY WOMEN'S SPORTSWEAR (SHANGHAI)

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Feb 2024 - Present

- Launch quiet-luxury women's sportswear brand in Shanghai
- Standardize fit and specs for target demographic, ensuring consistency across collections
- Direct seasonal design, fabric sourcing, and sustainable material strategies
- Establish brand identity across logos, packaging, and marketing
- Manage remote factory teams, development, fittings, and pattern corrections

MICHAELKILADA – LUXURY EVENINGWEAR (NEW YORK)

COUTURIER

Nov 2020 - Aug 2023

- Designed custom wedding gown for influential fashion couple's destination wedding in Lake Garda, Italy
- Created bespoke eveningwear and bridal gowns, from consultation to white-glove delivery
- Engineered tailored bustiers and garment foundations for flawless fit
- Oversaw atelier development, patternmaking, and campaign photoshoots

JUMP DESIGN GROUP - SOCIAL OCCASION DRESSES (NEW YORK)

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Sep 2018 - Feb 2020

- Appointed as Creative Lead for Executive Leadership Team. Optimized workflow
- Directed 15 designers across five brands, setting seasonal direction, color, and fabric palettes
- Improved margins from 65% to 70% and increased sales by 15% through process overhaul
- Boosted adoption from 18% to 45% by standardizing fit and construction
- Cultivated collaborative culture, managed in-house sample room

G-iii APPAREL GROUP - SOCIAL OCCASION DRESSES (NEW YORK)

VP OF DESIGN & MERCHANDISING

Nov 2016 - Mar 2018

- Recruited from Ralph Lauren to lead Vince Camuto dress license
- Expanded customer base with accessible cocktail and eveningwear
- Created exclusive designs for *Pitch Perfect 3*, styled Sarah McLachlan for televised events
- Strengthened merchandising and line strategies



RALPH LAUREN - DRESSES (NEW YORK)

SENIOR DESIGN DIRECTOR

Jul 2007 - Nov 2016

- Led 15-person team, delivering **\$1B+ in retail sales**
- Distilled brand DNA to create iconic matte jersey cocktail dresses and evening gowns
- Perfected the “Lauren Fit” across missy, women’s, and petites
- Fostered creativity, authenticity, and high-performing team culture

EARLIER ROLES

- **KELLWOOD / IZOD – WOMEN’S SPORTSWEAR & DENIM (*SENIOR DESIGNER*)**
- **ABERCROMBIE & FITCH – MEN’S WOVEN BOTTOMS (*SENIOR DESIGNER*)**

EDUCATION

Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. A.A.S. **Patternmaking Technology | Eveningwear**

SUNY Stony Brook, New York. **Bachelor of Engineering: Mechanical | Music Composition Minor**

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Pattern Making • Draping • Garment Construction • Technical Drawing • Technical Design • Illustration • Garment Fit • Haute Couture • Fabric Development • Embellishment Techniques • Adobe Photoshop • Adobe Illustrator • Procreate • Microsoft Office Suite

SOFT SKILLS

Creative Team Leadership • Talent Development • Polished Presentation Skills • Strategic Problem Solving • Vendor Negotiation • Merchandising