# RACHEL ELIZABETH CARLETON rachelelizabethcarleton@gmail.com

### **WORK**

## [ 2013 - present ]

## Designer: Abercrombie & Fitch Women's Brand - Sweaters

Currently leading the sweater design team and managing and developing an associate level designer; I work closely with all aspects of product development from concept to production. I am a strong team player with excellent communication skills to collaborate with production, tech and merchandising teams, regularly leading meetings in both smaller team settings to large presentations involving the Creative Director, Brand President, and CEO. I develop detailed flat sketches as well as knit swatches to creatively design knitwear in line with our unique brand handwriting; I pay great attention to detail from conceptualization to every fit session with a focus on quality and trend relevance, as well as incrementality to our collection. I am experienced with developing yarns and raw materials for upcoming seasons as well as stitches and textures to apply within the design process. I am able to multi-task, manage multiple seasons and deadlines at one time, and be readily adaptive in the ever changing retail environment.

### [ September 2012 - December 2012 ]

# Intern: Abercrombie & Fitch (All Brands) - Women's Accessories

Assisted design team from concept to production as well as fulfilling technical designer role; designed scarves and bags for all brands, created technical sketches and built tech packs with specs for factory construction, aided in trend research as well as design presentations.

# [ August 2012 - September 2012 ]

### Intern: Abercrombie & Fitch / Hollister - Female Sweaters

Assisted design team from concept to production; created technical flat sketches for tech packs, developed knit swatches, identified key trends suited for the brand, designed garments from initial swatching stage to fit sample.

### [ January 2012 - March 2012 ]

# Intern: Abercrombie & Fitch (All Brands) - Female Graphic Tees

Worked closely with the graphics and design team to create color palettes, research design concepts, assemble trend reports, develop mock-ups, and collaborate with merchandising and tech partners.

# **EDUCATION**

[2008 - 2013]

# University of Cincinnati: College of Design, Art, Architecture & Planning

Bachelor of Science in Design: Fashion Design (knitwear focus within graduate collection)

#### **HONORS, AWARDS & PRESS**

[2011]

Silver Thimble Award for childrenswear design

## [2013]

Holzberger Family Humanitarian Foundation Award for graduate collection;

Golden Brush Award for graduate collection;

graduate collection published in "Emerging Fashion Designers 4"

### **SKILLS**

### Market research & customer understanding

Shopping the market, analyzing retail trends, applying runway to brand handwriting and customer needs

## Range planning & design execution

Conceptualization, swatching, sketching, ideation, fitting, color and assortment of the line

# Communication & collaboration

Strong verbal presentation skills, visual storytelling, positive team player

# Organization & management

Adhering to deadlines and team needs, workload and timeline management, efficiency within execution

### Technology

Adobe (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign), Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), Web PLM / PDM, Kaledo Knit

# Knitwear focus

Proficiency in knit garment construction, domestic and industrial, stitch development, raw material development