

# Local man vies for fashion award

By Lisa Tallyn  
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A young Halton Hills man is one of 25 design students from across Canada selected as a finalist in Canada's 2015 Breakthrough Designers Competition.

Holden Vetro, 22, a student in George Brown College's Fashion Techniques program, will be competing in the event hosted by the fabric company Telio set for March 17 in Montreal.

The finale will feature luxurious garments meticulously crafted by emerging fashion designers, hailing from 22 major Canadian design schools.

"It's pretty exciting" said Vetro of Limehouse, and a Christ the King Secondary School graduate.

Vetro said his design was selected by his teacher to be entered in the competition because, "they had never seen anything like it."

In keeping with the theme of the competition, which is Luxe, Vetro chose to use organza to make his garment— very long shorts that can be worn by either a male or a female.

"My outfit ends up being a balance of structural control, elegance and unpredictable treatments," said Vetro.

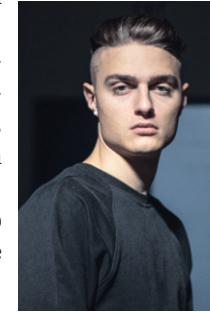
"I created the outfit because I'm really interested in gender neutrality, being queer myself."

"Shame, forced upon by the hegemonic structure of masculinity, was a feeling that I was left to quietly cope with during my years of high school in Georgetown, particularly while I participated on various sports teams," said Vetro. "It is this shame which I attempted to highlight in order to subvert the structure of distinct gender binaries with my competition piece by creating an outfit



Lux(e)

The formlessness of light inspired the exploration of fluidity both conceptually in its application to gender and compositionally by its use of organza, balancing structural control, elegance and unpredictable treatments.



HOLDEN VETRO (LEFT). HIS DESIGN ENTRY ABOVE.

that would fit various human anatomies, regardless of one's physically or culturally constructed gender. I wanted to highlight this "deviance" in a beautiful way, contrasting the seemingly grotesque (the use of rope, asymmetrical and boxy proportions) with the inherently pure (represented through the use of transparent, silk organza)."

He used different drawstring systems and ropes on the garment so it can be drawn into all different body shapes.

Vetro didn't use regular patterns when making the garment, instead drafting it as blocks.

Top prize is a \$5,000 scholarship offered by Joseph Ribkoff Inc. and private training offered by Lectra, valued at \$33,100.

That prize money would come in handy for Vetro who plans to continue his fashion design studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, Belgium next year, hoping to eventually earn both a B.A. and M.A. in Fashion Design.

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