It might seem odd but this is exactly the type of conversation you might overhear at Product Runway, an annual event that gives local interior designers an opportunity to display wearable fashion made with home décor. The event is hosted by the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), which has a student chapter at SCTD.

Local design firms partner with product manufacturers to create innovative garments using materials like wall coverings, carpet, floor and wall tile, window and furniture coverings, even paint, as the fabrics of choice. SCTD was the only educational institution represented in this event, which included a competition portion.

SCTD instructors Nancy Menz and Carla Wallace worked with Interior Design students Stephanie Mitchell, Alainna Ross, Staci Foster, Jessica Voughn, Brian Matthews and Nicole Bass to design Sullivan’s Product Runway entry. The outfit designed used earthy, vibrant colors to create a ‘60s look. The outfit included a simple A-line dress made out of vinyl wall covering, matching headband, earrings and purse, and knee-high white boots.

Nicole doubled as a model for the outfit, and while she admits she was nervous about strutting her stuff on the runway, she says she loved the event for it networking opportunities with some of Louisville and Lexington’s most innovative designers.

Seventeen design teams, including the team representing SCTD, showcased their designs during Product Runway 2011, which took place at the Henry Clay in Louisville on Oct. 20. The event benefited Dress for Success Louisville, an organization that provides professional attire, networking support and career development tools for disadvantaged women.