

WILLIAM MORRIS MEETS KOOS

June 2003

Design Inspiration

The challenge for this ensemble was to develop a versatile, well-coordinated wardrobe from a single pattern. The wardrobe is anchored by a reversible jacket that uses a border print on one side and a hand-dyed fabric, embellished with an appliqued border on the reverse side. The applique border is repeated on one of the tops. Bias trims are used on all the garments to further coordinate the ensemble.

Fabrics

Jacket: 100% rayon and 100% cotton prints, reversing to 100% rayon.

Top and pants: 100% rayon and 100% cotton prints.

Dress: 100% rayon.

Embellishments

Jacket: appliqued borders finished with bias trim, hand-made frogs.

Top and pants: appliqued borders as for jacket, and appliqued bias trim.

Dress: appliqued bias trim and piping.

Patterns

Jacket, top, pants and dress: Simplicity 5687 (modified).

Special Sewing Techniques

On the jacket and top, the appliques are finished with bias trim, which adds a further decorative element to the wardrobe. This is a favorite finishing technique used by Koos van den Akker. The applique fabrics are cut to shape, secured with temporary adhesive and covered with bias trim, which is edge-stitched in place. Since the applique border is quite large, this method avoids the use of fusible web or heavy stitching and keeps the overall hand of the garments as soft as possible. The pants have a drawstring, paper-bag style waist that is kept in shape by elastic. The dress is fully lined for additional body. Both the pants and dress have edge-stitched bias trim around the hemline.

Exhibitions and Awards

Grand Prize Winner: Most Interesting Wardrobe Concept: ASG Creativity Contest, June 2003.

Honorable Mention, Pennsylvania National Quilt Extravaganza X, September 2003.