

MILLE FIORI

June 2005

Design Inspiration

This jacket was inspired by the medieval tapestry design known as “Mille Fiori” (literally “thousands of flowers”). The design consists of many randomly strewn flowers, with no obvious repeat pattern. The challenge was to reproduce this effect with machine embroidery.

Fabrics

100 % silk organza.

Embellishments

Machine embroidery designs from Amazing Designers Kayla Kennington Collection I, using rayon machine-embroidery thread.

Patterns

Vogue 8088

Special Sewing Techniques

The embroidery designs used in this jacket have been very lightly digitized so that they can be densely stitched without compromising the drape of the garment. Using a technique called tessellated embroidery and editing software, several oddly-shaped tiles that just fit in a 6 × 10 embroidery hoop were filled with various flower designs from the collection. The tiles were planned so that they fit together to cover the surface of the jacket. Because the shapes of the tiles are interlocking, it is very difficult to see where a single hooping starts and ends. The flowers are arranged so that they are larger and more densely spaced near the hem of the jacket, adding visual weight to the garment. The arrangement is made more lively by using many colors for the flowers. In all, 45 hoopings were required to complete the embroidery. After the water-soluble stabilizer was dissolved and the pattern pieces cut out, the appearance of the construction details has been minimized through the use of hairline seams.

Exhibitions and Awards

1st place, Nancy's Notions Machine Embroidery Challenge, May 2007.

Grand Prize Winner, Amazing Designs Professional Contest, "Everyone Loves Sulky" Challenge, August 2005.

Honorable Mention, Professional Garment, "Everyone Loves Sulky" Challenge, August 2005.