

BELLADONNA

January 2006

Design Inspiration

The design inspiration for this ensemble was the unusual burnout silk-chiffon fabric that was purchased in Beijing and used for the handkerchief-hem skirt. The pointed hemline of the skirt is echoed by the shaped jacket and the design of the purse. The cool gray and violet tones and the lily pattern of the skirt fabric also set the mood for Art-Nouveau-inspired embroidery designs on the jacket.

Fabrics

Jacket and purse: 100% silk gazar.

Skirt: 100% silk chiffon burnout.

Top: 100% silk seersucker.

Lining: 100% rayon Bemberg.

Embellishments

Jacket and purse: machine embroidery designs from “Designer Accents” by Yvonne Kendall using rayon and polyester machine embroidery thread, free-motion echo quilting.

Top: machine-guided grid quilting, piping and lacing.

Patterns

Jacket: Vogue 8046 (modified)

Skirt: Vogue 8083

Top: Vogue 7733 (modified)

Purse: original design.

Special Sewing Techniques

The jacket is embellished with embroidery and quilting. Several small embroideries with an Art-Nouveau theme have been combined in software to create the large panels of embroidery on the hemline, upper front and back and sleeves of the jacket. The jacket background is free-motion echo quilted, following the shape of the embroidery designs, to provide a subtle all-over texture. For the corset top, both the satin and seersucker sides of the fabric have

been used. The panels of the corset are grid quilted in two different patterns for added interest. The corset is finished with piping, lacing and handkerchief ruffles on the sleeves. The purse is an original design and reflects the lily theme of the ensemble by mimicking an open flower. The purse is embroidered, quilted and lined with the periwinkle silk used for the corset. The skirt has a narrow machine hem and is underlined periwinkle rayon lining for a subtle shot of color.

Exhibitions and Awards

2nd place, AQS/Hobbs Bonded Fiber Fashion Show and Contest, April 2006.

2nd place, Pacific International Quilt Festival XV, October 2006.

3rd place - Wearables, Road 2 California, January 2007.

Viewer's Choice, Stitch In Time Fashion Show, IQF/Chicago, April, 2007.

Artista Masterpiece Grand Prize, Bernina University XXXVII, July, 2007.

Bernina Guest Designer, Bernina Fashion Show, Houston, November, 2007.