

# **NOT SO BASIC BLACK**

**February 2006**

## **Design Inspiration**

This ensemble was designed for a guild challenge requiring the use of only black fabrics. The combination of different textures, weights and finishes of several black fabrics gives the ensemble visual interest. The fabrics in the multi-gore skirt are subtly contrasted by the silk brocade jacket. The style of the purse complements the tailored but feminine look of the suit.

## **Fabrics**

Jacket: 100% silk brocade

Skirt: acetate/nylon velvet, 100% crinkle silk, 100% silk chiffon.

Purse: 100% silk brocade, acetate/nylon velvet.

## **Embellishments**

Jacket: welt pockets.

Skirt: grid quilting.

Purse: velvet piping.

## **Patterns**

Jacket and skirt: Vogue 2871.

Purse: Ghee's Saunter Satchel.

## **Special Sewing Techniques**

The skirt fabrics required special handling because the velvet, silk chiffon and silk crinkle creep very easily when sewn to each other. Even a small error on the seam allowance, when multiplied by the fourteen seams in the skirt, would drastically alter the fit. Hence each seam has been carefully basted to ensure accuracy. The yoke of the skirt is embellished with grid quilting. The welt pockets on the jacket also require careful and accurate stitching, especially in silk brocade, which is marred by having to remove stitches.

## **Exhibitions and Awards**

"Tailored Elegance" Award, Haute Couture Club of Chicago, February 2006.