

LA BOHEME

December 2006

Design Inspiration

Bohemian influences and Russian themes are the main sources of inspiration for this ensemble. The style of the reversible coat, dress and hat are reminiscent of traditional Russian folk dress. The opulent combination of deep, saturated colors, bold embroidery, numerous visual textures and distinctive embellishments are characteristic of Russian folk-art style and give the ensemble a luxe Bohemian look.

Fabrics

Coat: embroidered side – 100% polyester eyelash knit, 100% sand-washed rayon; reverse side – 100% cotton tapestry, rayon/acetate jacquard, 100% silk burnout charmeuse, polyester/acetate striped challis.

Dress: rayon/acetate jacquard, 100% silk burnout charmeuse, polyester/acetate striped challis, 100% silk charmeuse.

Hat: 100% polyester eyelash knit, 100% cotton tapestry.

Embellishments

Coat: embroidered side – machine embroidery designs from “Designer Accents” by Yvonne Kendall, background quilting using sliver thread, bobbin-couched decorative stitching using Pearl Crown Rayon, hand-embroidered decorative stitching using rayon floss, pearl-cotton, and silk and rayon ribbon, machine-couched piping; reverse side – color-blocked surface design, inset fabric bands, strap seams and couched braid.

Dress: color-blocked surface design, inset fabric bands, lace trim and couched braid.

Hat: background quilting, bobbin-couched decorative stitching, hand-embroidered decorative stitching and machine-couched piping.

Patterns

Coat: New Look 6538.

Dress: original design adapted from Simplicity 4022.

Hat: Pattern Studio "Faux Fur".

Special Sewing Techniques

The embroidered side of the reversible coat is made of an eyelash knit with horizontal ribs that has been quilted to Hobbs thermore batting using a metallic thread. The knit has been steamed so that the ribs follow the curved shape of the garment and do not clash with the quilting lines. The knit is embellished further with both hand and machine decorative stitching. Heavy threads have been bobbin-couched in several pattern stitches. Hand stitches include cross, upright cross, herringbone and knotted tufts. The inset borders of sand-washed rayon feature elaborate machine embroidery. Several motifs have been combined in software to produce the large scale design. The embroidered borders are accented with couched piping. The reverse side of the coat is made of a combination of several fabrics. Each fabric section is separated by an inset band cut from an elaborate striped fabric that resembles woven ribbons. Different parts of the fabric have been used to achieve various decorative effects. The inset bands are finished with braid. The dress features a similar combination of fabrics, again using the striped fabric in clever ways to create decorative bands. The look of the dress is enriched by the addition of a lace-trimmed flounce and semi-transparent sleeves. The hat is decorated with both hand and machine stitching similar to that on the coat, but in a much smaller scale. The hat is finished with machine-couched piped braid.

Exhibitions and Awards

Finalist, AQS/Hobbs Bonded Fiber Fashion Show and Contest, April 2007.

Finalist, Wearable Art, International Quilt Festival Houston, November 2007.

3rd place - Wearables, Road 2 California, January 2008.

3rd place, Full Ensemble, Mid-Atlantic Wearable Art Festival XIV, February 2008.

1st place, Fashion Category, Sewing With Nancy 25th Anniversary Contest, May 2008.