

The Virtual Quilt

Issue 36

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Every year, thousands of quilters flock to Houston for the International Quilt Festival.



The Virtual Quilt staff was there.

And About.com's Susan Druding got pictures!

Also in this issue:

**On Duty at a Craft Fair • The Vendors at Houston's IQF
Electric Quilt's New "Stash" • Printed Textiles in Alsace**

Houston's IQF: A Whirlwind Tour

By Carol Miller

International Quilt Festival in Houston, TX, always seemed as accessible as Mars. I just assumed the amount of money involved would make the trip out of the question. And then my friends on Compuserve all began talking about going and encouraging ME to join them.

The people who talk about how dangerous computers are for our kids don't know where the real danger lies. It was so easy to sneak a little peek at airline fares. Imagine my

surprise when I realized a round trip ticket was only about \$200! Hmm...I could do that. And I could share a room....Well, you guessed, of course. I was going to Houston!!



Photo courtesy Susan Druding.

October 20, 5:30 a.m. - in the dark and the pouring rain, my husband and I headed out to the airport! I was really excited to be taking off in the rain, let me tell you.

Miraculously, the flight left on time and I struck up a conversation with the woman across the aisle. She scooted over to my row, saying "I'm a chatty Kathy." Boy, she wasn't kidding! She talked non-stop for 2 hours - at which time, I closed my eyes and feigned sleep just for a break.

I arrived in Houston at 8:30 their time and there was one clerk at the Express Shuttle desk. It took forever to get a ticket and I was near the head of what became an endless line. International Quilt Fest is the largest convention in Houston didn't anybody tell the guys at the airport?

Finally the shuttle comes, nine quilters pile in with all their paraphernalia, and we head into town. First stop, the Doubletree Hotel downtown. Excuse me, I say, you ARE going to the

Club Hotel by Doubletree, aren't you? Oh, no, not on this route, he says. Oh, yes, I assure him. Not my fault that the Shuttle desk sold me the wrong ticket. Eight other women get very quiet as we discuss this. I have to pull my schedule out of the suitcase so he can have the address. Happily it is in the outside pocket and we are spared the sight of my underwear tumbling out on the sidewalk! Arrive at last at hotel around 10:30.

I get my stuff up to my room, fight with that darn electronic key (geez - who thought of those?) and unpack. My plan is to spend the day sight-seeing in Houston before meeting friends for dinner at the quilt show.

The desk calls me a cab - I get in - clutching the pages of the tourism book and show the man that I want to go to the Bayou Bend Collection - a 28 room mansion on 7 acres of garden - and he never heard of it. Even with a street address, he has no idea where it is. He tries calling the listed phone number and it is out of service. We even stopped a bicycle policeman and he never heard of it either. I give up and go to the Butterfly Collection at the Nature and Science Museum.

This is an enclosed area with hundreds of butterflies. It is quite beautiful but after a while, it is a little creepy that they keep flying in your face and landing in your hair. Suddenly I realize how much like bats they are and really HAVE to leave.

After a refreshing nap at the hotel, the shuttle takes me to the Convention Center where I meet my friends. Brilliantly, they arranged subs from a local shop and we all eat dinner for only \$3!! This is, without question, the least expensive meal I eat in Houston.

And now the moment has come we can enter

the Holy of Holies the biggest quilt show in the United States ladies and gentlemen, without further ado the Members' Preview!!

The sheer size of it is overwhelming the George R. Brown Convention Center is one full city block. The ground floor is basically one stupendous room about the size of a football field. If you enter at the main doors, the IQF Judged Quilts are in front of you, covering the area from row 1800 to row 1100. There are 28 rows in all!

Four rows to the left is the 100 Best Quilts of the Century. These are displayed museum-style, with no overhead lighting and spotlights for each quilt. No photos are allowed in this section but a beautiful magazine is available with each quilt getting a full page picture. I gladly pay the man the \$10. This magazine is available at newsstands and quilt shops. It is amazing how many of the modern quilts I have seen when they were first hanging. It is like visiting old friends.

There are FORTY-TWO named exhibits! The most touching is "Remembering Doreen Speckmann" which includes a dozen or so of her quilts and a lovely book for people to write their memories of Doreen. The book will go to her family.

Some of the exhibits are hands-on like the Let Kids Sew area and the LoveQuilt Connection sponsored by Kaye Wood. In this section, there are a dozen sergers and people can sit and sew quilts for children in need. If you sew more than 10 minutes, you get a LoveQuilt pin. I find time for this on Thursday and am convinced that I do NOT need a serger.

My plan is to see the quilts first but I am sucked by vortex into some of the vendor stalls. Still, I manage to see about 20% of the quilts.

Friday morning, I take my camera and make my way through the rest of the quilts. They are

amazingly beautiful - I don't know whether to be intimidated or inspired. Mostly I wonder how I have the nerve to buy any more fabric. I cannot compete with these people!! One way and another, I meet several of the winners -

and a couple of the 100 best people - remember the one of the folk dancers that was in QNM a couple months ago? Wow - what a nice lady - and she doesn't think she is creative. I have no imagination, she said. I'm not like Caryl Bryer Fallert - which just goes to show that we are all ridiculously insecure!

The two top winners are both Baltimore Albums. To my untrained eye, they look very similar and I wonder how the judges arrived at their decision. My personal taste runs to more adventurous designs. In fact, if you looked at the 80 pictures I took at the show, you

would think there were no traditional quilts on display.

There were, of course, including two special exhibits of Amish quilts. There were also Japanese quilts, dolls, quilts specializing in using Sulky thread, the Hoffman Challenge, the Jinny Beyer Challenge, quilts with a message (my favorite was the one with empty bowls from all the countries that have hunger problems each done in the ethnic style and fabric of that country). Another of my favorites was a double wedding ring so artfully colored it looked like some unique design it took close inspection (and reading the artist's notes) to realize it was the DWR!

My roommate, Laura, is a woman I met online and whom I have never seen in person. Miraculously, we get along as though we were lifelong friends. The first night, we lie in bed talking until 2:30. This sets the stage for a week of sleep deprivation.

Rather than try and see the show together, we



Photo courtesy Susan Druding.

set times to touch base and this seems to work well. We meet for lunch with several other online friends. We all call ourselves CISTers (from CompuServe Information Systems). Prices in the café area of the convention center are astronomical but the food isn't actually too bad. In the hotel, we have a franchise bakery called Au Bon Pain and they offer sandwiches, croissants, bagels, fruit, desserts and juice, so I know I can make it through without starving to death. This is a great comfort.

The hotel has trouble providing us with two keys that work. Laura and I take turns being locked out. It takes 3 sets of keys before we can both get in.

By Thursday afternoon, I am laden with purchases and feel like a pack mule. We take the shuttle back to the hotel and meet at 8 to have dinner at a Thai restaurant. This is my first Thai experience - also my last - but we won't go into it. Apparently, if you like this sort of thing, it was a good place to eat.

Friday, I plan on serious shopping and take my roll along tote - I am successful in filling it up. Tough work but someone has to do it. Thank heaven for those totes. I try and keep it close to my own heels to avoid running over other

people.

I manage to find a number of people I wanted to meet - Marti Michell whose templates I used in my color articles, Barb, Fran and Penny at EQ, Mickey Lawler (love that new book! Found the paints at the Pro-Chem booth and can't wait to play).

The weather is gorgeous and miraculously, the convention center is cool, despite huge crowds. This is a wonderful change from shows where the rising body count cause rising room temps. Don't these guys understand that a room with 2000 women in it will be warm?

I continue to run into CISTers and we arrange to meet at the Hyatt on Friday evening. Laura's daughter is coming in from Galveston and they meet to spend the afternoon together - then drive to the Hyatt. I take the shuttle. The bus drivers are terrific - often dropping me at places NOT on their route - which saves me having to transfer.

The CISTers are on the 21st floor at the Hyatt. You take a glass sided elevator - I don't know which is worse - my acrophobia or my claustrophobia! We manage to get 17 people into a hotel room - one of the locals brought wine and snacks and we ordered pizza. There are only 4 glasses



Photo courtesy Susan Druding.

PINETREE QUILTWORKS, Ltd.

<http://www.quiltworks.com/>

PineTree Quiltworks is settling comfortably into its new site and now frequently updates the "What's New" link (so you can check on *new stuff* there. The menu in the fabrics department also lists update dates for your convenience!. Shopping Cart enables you to add items to your basket with a click!

Recent, exciting arrivals include Shalimar II from Northcott, Victoria Falls from RJR, *more* Fossil Fern colors, *more* prints and batiks from Hoffman, new lines from Moda, and more, more, more! Coming soon ... Kaffe Fassett's yarn-dyed fabrics! Fassett's new book, Patchwork and Quilting, Book #1, is now in stock! Please stop by PineTree's new store at <http://www.quiltworks.com/>, and don't forget to make a bookmark!

so we appeal to housekeeping and they send us a stack of plastic cups. The noise level is NOT to be believed. It reminded me a lot of being 18!

By 11, I've had enough - my eyes are drooping and I keep yawning, so Laura, her daughter and I leave. We don't know how to get back to the hotel - so we have a little adventure. I keep my mouth closed (a fairly novel experience) and let them work it out. As my contribution, I lock the car doors.

Saturday I am scheduled for a 3 hour lecture class on being a professional quilter. Traffic is terrible and I am a little late. The room is in the far back corner of the center on the third floor and overhangs the highway and the loading dock.

It sounds like the trucks are coming through the room. I listen for about 40 minutes - the noise is giving me a terrible headache. I duck out of class and meet Judi - who has also ditched her class.

The truth is that by the fourth day, you are suffering from severe sensory overload and complete sleep deprivation. It is hard to remember your own name, much less concentrate on a class.

Saturday night, we eat at a Japanese restaurant me, Laura, Judi and her two roomies. Then we stand on the street and watch an unbelievable fireworks display. The Power of Light is put on as a finale to a local event called a Taste of Houston. Fireworks are set off simultaneously from the tops of 10 skyscrapers. It is all choreographed to a musical score. During the "Theme from Top Gun" there was a flyover by a jet plane! For some fabulous photos of the event go to Susan Druding's quilt page at

<http://quilting.about.com/library/houston99/n-houstonfire.htm>

We stand in the middle of downtown, triangulated amongst the bases of three of the buildings. It is like being at ground zero for a war. I only

know about the music because others told me later. All we can hear are explosions. We also miss the laser show since we are at the base of the building that is beaming the lasers. On Monday I am still finding bits of used gunpowder in my scalp.



Photo courtesy Susan Druding.

There are hundreds of thousands of people watching and when it ends, the streets erupt in cheers. Then there is gridlock like you can't believe. No cabs to be had. The bus on the pink route picks us up - even though our hotel is on the green route - and takes us home. He is VERY creative - even driving the wrong way up one street because that lane is empty! The passengers cheer!

Sunday was the sampler 37 teachers, each at a table in the large ballroom. As we wait outside, we receive a booklet, one page per teacher, outlining what they will demonstrate. This way you can choose what you most want to see. Then the doors open and it is like the Oklahoma Gold Rush! Lots of fun and actually learned a couple of things I can't wait to try. I buy a new kaleidoscope ruler from Marti Michell which also figures the corner pieces. What a good idea!

And then ... it's over. Time to go back to the hotel and shuttle off to the airport. Can't wait to see how helpless my husband was without me.

As soon as I catch up on my sleep, I'll go pat my purchases....

Carol Miller can be reached at webmistress@vcq.org the page she runs for her state quilt guild. Check there for a new North American Quilt Teacher Registry.



Another Houston Newbie Views the Vendors (Were There Quilts?)

By Lynn Holland

They say they do everything in a big way in Texas, and this year's Quilt International was no exception. We had never been to the Houston show before, so we were definitely blown away by the enormity of it all. (Not to mention the eccentricities of the Houston freeway system.) We should have been tipped off by the size of the vendor's area when we attended the San Antonio guild show a couple of years ago, but that didn't fully prepare us for this Texas-sized extravaganza devoted to goodies for quilters.

Our first response to the whole deal was WOW!

We began in sort of a haphazard fashion, but by the end of the first aisle, we decided we better develop a plan, fast. Consulting the map, we staked out the important locations the ladies rooms, the men's room, and the food court. We were dragging our rolling Planet Patchwork T-shirt cart, but that didn't slow us down much. We had identified a few must-visit spots, and we started with the Electric Quilt booth, and then picked up a button at Quilt Pro right around the corner. Both booths were crazy-busy demonstrating their quilt software. It was great to finally meet the people whose names had become familiar in our household and to have the opportunity to speak face-to-face to the folks who have been so influential in the computing quilters, community.

Then we stopped by to drool at the Jasmine Quilt Frame booth, where we were surprised to learn that Jasmine, (to us an icon in the world of quilting frames) is still a family-run business.

I can't express how impressed I was to meet the woman who invented those frames along with several other products that make quilting easier.

There were lots of famous (to us) people and even more neat stuff. It was definitely a celebrity-spotting opportunity, sort of the equivalent of standing on the street prior to the Oscars. I

pretended to be cool while standing in line at the ladies' room. Right in front of me were Roberta Horton and Mary Mashuta, talking about buying buttons. I did not embarrass myself by squealing or fainting in the presence of greatness, but I was suitably impressed.

Another thrill for me was meeting St. Teresa herself, Terrie Mangat, the founder and former owner of St. Teresa's Textile Treasure Trove in Cincinnati. Thank you, Penny McMorris, for the introduction.

In the cool stuff department, there were way too many beautiful and unusual fabrics. There was a strong Japanese presence, and many hand-dyed and marbled offerings, too. For the real quilt artist, this was the place to stock up for a year's worth of creations at one time. There are many things, that, in hindsight, I wish I had gotten.

Unfortunately, I get overloaded when presented with too many great choices at one time, and next time I'll spend one day reconnoitering and the next day buying, after I've had more time to think about how I might utilize things. In my "should have" list are some of the adorable "treats" from Cotton Candy. These items look like and are wrapped like all-day suckers, but are in reality fabrics to make a doll-sized quilt. What a super present for a secret pal or other quilting friend. Also in that list is one of those "when is a



thimble not a thimble" inventions available from House of Quilting. And then there were those "Big Boards" that go over the top of your ironing board and look like just the thing for pressing those quilt tops and backs . . . I could keep going, but it's probably just as well from a financial standpoint that I have trouble with decision-making.

To the credit of the show's organizers, the food selections were nicely varied, and not just your standard nachos and hotdogs that often dot these events. There was even a source for more substantial stuff and some good-looking salads, too, but we didn't discover that area until after we had lunched in the vast fast food room. But then we would have missed what was probably one of the more amusing events of the festival the great

potato quest. One of the vendors offered baked potatoes, but had apparently underestimated the demand. At one point it was announced that there were ten potatoes left, and the next batch would not be ready for 45 minutes. There was a good deal of grumbling and jockeying in line for the too-scarce baked potatoes, particularly when more appeared about three minutes too late for some disgruntled lunchers, but a good 30 minutes ahead of their announced arrival. Organizational plusses here were lots of seating and the "instructors can cut in line" rule.

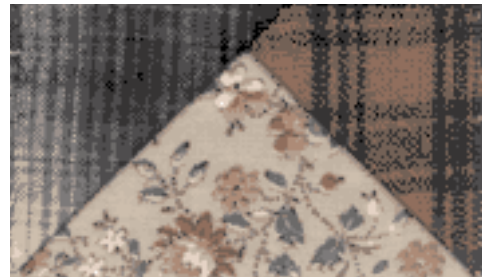
Oh, yes, there were quilts on display. The whole center of the gallery was quilts, dolls and wearables. So much to see, so little time! Definitely a reason for a return visit next year.



SCHOOLHOUSE ENTERPRISES

Amazing but true!

Gridded Geese(c) is a unique paper foundation method for mass-producing Flying Geese units up to 24 at once (no kidding!). Schoolhouse Enterprises, inventors and manufacturers of this revolutionary product, offers both a printed version of their catalog, and an on-line (<http://www.planetpatchwork.com/store/>) shopping cart service in conjunction with Planet Patchwork. You can safely order online through Planet Patchwork's secure server with your credit card!



The folks at Schoolhouse Enterprises and Planet Patchwork search for items for quilters (and friends of quilters) which are unique and often overlooked by other catalogs you might connect with. Check out their on-line catalog, which offers such interesting items as Photos-to-Fabric(tm) photo transfer paper, Ott Lights, beautiful embossed note cards, kaleidoscope pendants, and much more! And while you're visiting, be sure to check out the current Monthly Special!!

Schoolhouse carries the complete line of Electric Quilt products, including EQ4 design software, and Sew Precise! and Sew Precise with Shirley Liby. We also carry the popular Quilt-Pro program. We offer some of the best prices on quilt design software you'll find anywhere. EQ4 is only \$86.88 and Quilt-Pro is an unbelievable \$76.88 We also offer some great package deals for even bigger savings.

If you're having trouble deciding which program is best for you, call our toll-free Quilt Software Hotline at 877-558-3660.

We also offer a large selection of INSPECTOR CLUESEW's Mystery Quilts. If you missed any of the Cases which were previously online, you'll find them here!

If you're not able to access the web page, just e-mail Schoolhouse Enterprises (<mailto:cluesew@jerseycape.com>) with your "snail mail" (post office) address for your FREE CATALOG and Sample of Gridded Geese(c)! (Sorry, but Samples are only available in the printed catalogs.)

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The PERFECT SQUARE website has been updated to include information on all products and patterns complete with pictures. Credit cards are accepted.

Also included are pictures of Monica's art quilts and links to really cool quilt sites.

<http://www.webworldinc.com/perfectsquare>

for details.

SOFTWARE REVIEW: STASH: Virtual Fabric Comes into its Own

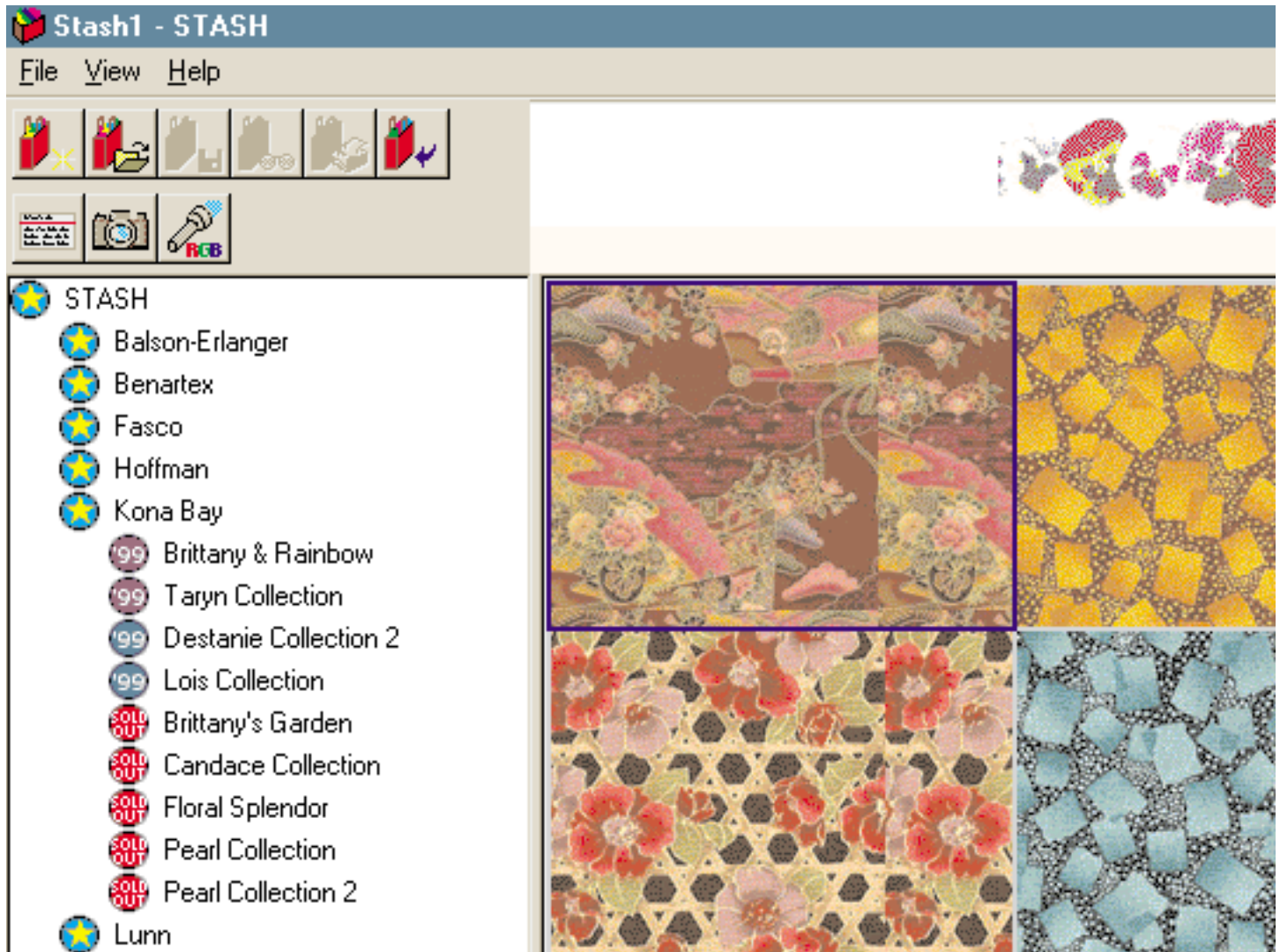
Virtual fabric is not a new idea. It has been around for a few years as an adjunct to quilt and other textile design programs. It can be seen everywhere on the Web, of course, illustrating the growing number of online fabric shops such as Pinetree Quiltworks and eQuilter.com.

If you think about it, it's kind of a strange idea. I mean, what the heck good is it? You can't make a *real* quilt out of it; it won't keep you warm in the wintertime. It doesn't have the nice feel of a real bolt as you slip a few inches of it through your fingers. It's hard to imagine that 10 years ago the corporate board of Benartex foresaw a time when they would be striking deals with software companies to reproduce their lines in pixels!

And yet that's exactly what has happened as

we have inexorably continued our quest to reproduce everything in the "real" world in the virtual world of the computer. Up to now, virtual fabric swatches have been add-ons to quilt design programs. They were the "paint" the designer used to create her virtual quilt on the screen, and as the programs and their users have become more sophisticated, they have had less patience with generic representations of fabric. They want the real thing! So QuiltSOFT, Quilt-Pro and Electric Quilt began to make designer fabrics a part of their software libraries.

With the introduction of STASH, though, The Electric Quilt Company has taken virtual fabric to a whole new level. This CD for Windows, which boasts more than 2,000 fabrics (it's actually



more than 3,000 if you include those it duplicates from Electric Quilt 4), is a standalone program. It allows you to view, organize, print, save, and export fabric swatches from the latest lines of fifteen of the world's greatest fabric designers. And it doesn't take up any space in your sewing room!

STASH has a relatively simple interface similar to that used in the company's Sew Precise disks, with an expanding table of contents on the left side of the screen (alphabetical by manufacturer) and a window to display swatches on the right. You can customize the display to show more or fewer swatches (from 4 at a time to 25 at a time). A button bar at the top gives access to the program's few basic functions.

It's kind of fun to imagine the dialogue that might have taken place when this program began to take shape and its central metaphor was developed:

"So we scan a bunch of fabrics into the program, but what should you be able to do with them?"

"Well, what do people do with REAL fabric?"

"Look at it. Touch it. Sew with it."

"No, I mean what do they REALLY do with it?"

"BUY it and stick it in a chest!"

And so STASH was born, and the main actions that can be taken in it all involve a shopping bag. You can create a shopping bag, put swatches in a shopping bag, save, print, and view a shopping bag. You can have as many bags as you want, each saved in a file with the file extension of (what else?) .bag. It's the virtual equivalent of visiting the fabric store.

And after you put it in the bag? Some of the stash actually gets used eventually, doesn't it? Well, you can export it in bitmap form into a variety of other applications. You can use it as a background for your web page, or decorate letters to your friends. You can send it by e-mail to somebody you wish to share it with, including perhaps one of those online fabric stores to see if they have it in stock.

When I first started playing with STASH, I became mesmerized by the beauty of the fabrics. In some ways it's a better way to view fabrics than to see them in a fabric store. Many quilt stores organize their fabrics by color, which

makes sense if you're shopping that way, but having them laid out in complete sets by designer lets you appreciate them in new ways. You can see the same design in several different colorways and you can easily see the creative influence of a single sensibility. The designer lines in the program run the gamut from Thimbleberries and Debbie Mumm to Kona Bay's luscious Asian influences and Kaffe Fassett's bright bold Madras plaids. If you're a person who gets inspiration for your quilts from seeing fabric you like, then this program will be a big boost to your creativity.

Many quilting teachers teach the "theme fabric" method for choosing colors for a quilt. You find a fabric you like with a number of colors in it, and you then choose other fabrics to complement it. STASH creates a new way to do that by providing a wonderful utility that allows you to search the entire CD library by color. It will find every fabric in every designer library with the color you choose. While you will still need to go and look at the fabrics "in the flesh," this gives you a good start and suggests combinations and possibilities you probably hadn't thought of.

The ultimate use of this fabric library, of course, is with a quilt design program. STASH is part of the Electric Quilt Company suite of programs and adds a major new dimension for users of Electric Quilt 4, the company's flagship product. By putting the STASH CD in your computer's drive, you effectively expand EQ's fabric library by some 2,000 designer fabrics. All the old familiar favorites are there, on the new disk (no need to do any switching with the EQ4 disk), along with the STASH libraries, clearly labeled and ready to go. These can be saved into your project files and used in the design of your quilts seamlessly (no pun intended) and with no fuss.

Like so many things virtual which seem silly or frivolous at first (what possible serious use can there be for chat?), STASH reveals new ways to enhance our creativity each time we play with it. Even real fabric, after all, is primarily an aesthetic experience. Plain old gray wool would do to keep us warm, but the beauty and appeal of fabric design is as old as civilization. STASH gives us another way to enjoy it as well as put it to practical use.



Two Gyms Full

Lynn Holland goes on duty at a craft fair booth

Before the trick or treaters have finished off that last bit of candy, the holiday craft marketplace season officially begins. Everyone who sews or does some type of craft has probably at one time or another contemplated having a booth themselves, and last weekend I got to fulfill my long-term fascination with craft vending by volunteering to help a friend who has run a one-woman booth for several seasons now. Gloria's mother sews beautiful clothing for 18-inch dolls (American Girl, primarily), and Gloria markets them for her.

This particular craft show was a one-day extravaganza at a large, prestigious private school. Known for heavy crowds with an interest in spending money, the show stretched across two gyms, a cafeteria and a huge outdoor walkway. For the vending fee and a donation item (minimum value \$25) each vendor received a taped-off area (approximately 8 x 8) in which to set up a display. By the time I arrived on Saturday morning, an hour and a half before showtime, Gloria had transformed her square of floor in the cafeteria into an adorable lattice-backed booth with draped display tables, tulle-trimmed racks,

and dolls dressed in Gloria's mother's creations, relaxing in wicker chairs waiting for Santa. The enormous parking lots were already beginning to fill, and all the vendors and volunteers were searching for coffee.

Those vendors set up in the outdoor arcade

were beginning to get frostbite, except for some obvious old hands from Tennessee who had a propane heater set up and were making friends rapidly. As I walked through the outdoor area I heard someone exclaim, "I've already sold \$300 worth of stuff to the security guards!"



Shortly before opening, a volunteer lunch lady came by to sell us a box lunch and tell us about where we could find what if we need help. By quarter to nine, there was a line at the door, waiting for the opening bell. Gloria and I checked out the vendors on either side of us. To the left of us were beautiful handmade baby goods. The business is named Hope's Baby, and both Hope and the baby were manning the booth. Although I thought that bringing a six-month old baby to an all-day event was misery waiting to happen, I sure was wrong. Hope's baby didn't complain

BREAKING TRADITIONS

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nearly as much as I did during the eight-hour stint. To the right of us was neat ladies' stuff, including funky beaded wire mesh purses and adorable Santa and angel pillows. Across the way was a vendor from Tennessee who sold hand-somely detailed Santas. Gloria and I both fell in love with the Santa holding an ark full of Noah's animals. After a cursory trip around our immediate area, it was time for the real deal, and in came the shoppers.

People came, they looked, they bought. Gloria and I worked out a system to keep things straight. I learned how to pin doll clothes together and to re-dress a doll in mid-air. Things happened here and there to break the monotony. One beleaguered shopper somehow got too laden down with goodies and dropped a \$40 ceramic bowl on the floor which shattered into a dozen pieces. At one point during the day, we had a sorority reunion that blocked traffic into our little space for a good ten minutes. Consequently, I learned more about a stranger's broken engagement and her auntie's surgery than any close relative needed to know. Someone was looking for a dress for her Shirley Temple doll; another was trying to find something to fit around a doll that was "born" in the fifties and is a little heftier than the girls of today.

Several little girls came and admired our wares, had a piece of candy from Gloria's fabric gingerbread house "jar," then went off in search of their mothers, who had the money! Some of

them stayed with us nearly the entire day.

Lunchtime came and went. The chicken salad croissant sandwich was excellent, and it was accompanied by a slice of homemade lemon poppyseed pound cake. We drank huge quantities of bottled water. The baby next door did not cry or fuss, but continued to be the best advertisement for motherhood I have ever seen. Even though there was a "no strollers" policy, late in the afternoon a few began to creep in. People came back to buy those things they should have bought earlier.

When the final minutes approached, someone from the committee handed Gloria a comment sheet and reminded her to take the shuttle back to the remote lot to get her truck so she could load her goods. Giving me instructions on how to begin the packing up, Gloria went to catch the shuttle. When she returned, she was less than thrilled. Due to the heavy vendor traffic, she had to park two buildings away. We were more fortunate than most, because Gloria's stock is unbreakable and relatively lightweight. We didn't have pottery to wrap or bows that would get crushed. Thankfully, Gloria has packing up and getting ready to go down to a science. After about eight trips each with heavy loads her pickup was organized so that she can be ready in an instant for the next show. And don't forget me -- I can hardly wait for the show next Saturday. This time she has promised me I can come Friday night and help set up!



GREENHAVEN

Greenhaven, a bed and breakfast retreat especially for Quilters, on the Olympic Peninsula.

Visit Washington State and stay with a quilter, and her cat Oliver.

The Herbolds live just outside of Sunny Sequim. Their home, set in the tall trees, is warm, pleasant, and affordable.

Norma can direct you to quilt shops in the area, plus the natural wonders located on the Olympic Peninsula. For those in the Northwest, Norma can also plan a personal retreat for you and your quilting friends.

You're invited to visit the website for Greenhaven, where you can check out Norma's quilts, learn more about Sequim, and of course, see Oliver. The address is: <http://www.olypen.com/normah>

You may email Norma at normah@olypen.com or call 360-681-0364 for more information.

Planet Patchwork

<http://www.planetpatchwork.com/>

PCQuilt for Windows

PCQuilt for Windows is easy to learn and easy to use quilting software. The block and the quilt are on the same screen so you can see your quilt emerge as you design and color your blocks. Combine blocks in a variety of ways to see endless new designs. The program includes all the features that have always made PCQuilt easy and fun to use. Now with the new Windows version, PCQuilt will help you estimate your yardage, print templates, quilts and blocks, and has a friendly Windows interface with easy to use toolbars. PCQuilt comes with a extensive library of blocks, border, quilts, palettes and fabric patterns. PCQuilt is also available for the Macintosh. Look for PCQuilt at your local Husqvarna VIKING Dealer or visit our website at <http://www.pcquilt.com>

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SECONDS: Because we manufacture the Mini Dust-it to a very high standard, we currently have a good supply of imperfects. They may be thinner and not as pretty or have some other defect, but they still work great!

And best of all we offer these to you for just \$1, INCLUDING postage. HOWEVER, minimum order is three (no maximum). You can order them at the address above and enjoy this wonderful product at a bargain price! These will make wonderful stocking stuffers and you can request red and green labels for the season.



Alsace Museum Features Printed Textiles

By Odile Berget

[Editor's Note: Odile Berget, active in textile circles in France, sent us the following e-mail a few weeks ago:

"This week-end I had an interesting visit to an exhibition in the south of Alsace. Mulhouse is near Germany and Switzerland. This exhibition of provencal textiles will be going on until September 2000. It could be interesting for your readers because in April 2000, we will have Quilt Europa Expo in Strasbourg, (150 kms north of Mulhouse)."

Odile was kind enough to provide the following review of the museum and the exhibit.]

A 250 year history

In 1746, four young associates founded the first textile printworks in Mulhouse. The industry took root and flourished, bringing in its wake prosperity to the city. In 1833 the print manufacturers who made up the Société Industrielle (Industrial Association) decided to keep a record of their products, as well as those of other regions, for the benefit of textile designers. To date, this collection of samples has grown to over 3 million pieces, which are accessible through the Service d'Utilisation des Documents (S.U.D.).

An unparalleled collection

Alongside the Sample books, the Museum houses nearly 50,000 textile documents: lengths of cloth, bedspreads, scarves, shawls, etc... displayed in temporary exhibitions. They serve to outline the history and the range of printed textiles, including exceptionally rare masterpieces as well as ordinary, everyday artifacts. Permanent galleries provide insight into the history and

technical evolution of textile printing. Machinery, dyes and tools all tell the story of the craft.

Temporary exhibition

Fortunes de Provence
Quilted printed blankets of the André-Jean Cabanel's collection

From the 11/06/1999 to the 4/09/2000
Open every days except 1st January, 1st May and 25th December.



The Museum is currently exhibiting about a hundred pieces of a private collection. André-Jean Cabanel is a farmer (olive oil, wine and truffles) in the south of France. From the youngest age, he has been passionately fond of Provencal textiles.

These marvellous pieces take advantage of the Museum's huge records. A study of textile use in the south of France during Eighteenth and Nineteenth century can be performed. This region, promoted by the proximity of Marseille harbour and the traditional Beaucaire textile fair, was opened to the world.

From the Seventeenth century, quilters have been using printed cotton from India. They have made quilted blankets, boutis and quilted garments. During this period, textiles were expensive and these pieces were used for dowries and passed from generation to generation. They were also precious gifts for important persons as town governors. These pieces were carefully kept in wardrobes, and only used to decorate houses and balconies during religious holidays such as Corpus-Christi.

Some pieces of this collection have never been washed, they are as new!!

This collection shows a range of cotton from many origins : French manufacturers (Nantes, Rouen, Jouy, and obviously Alsace region) but



also England and Italy.

Also are exhibited boutis as well as petticoats or blankets (for marriages and new-born babies).

The blankets are quilted with lines or double lines (designing squares) in the middle medallion and with cable, herring-bone or leaves pattern for borders.

Some photographs show the range of designs and colors used in these provencal pieces.

Musée de l'Impression sur Etoffes (MISE)

14, rue J.J.Henner

B.P. 1468

F. 68072 Mulhouse

Tel : 33/3 89 46 83 00

Fax : 33/3 89 46 83 10

Guided tours in English can be arranged by appointment.

Demonstrations of woodblock printing and by copper roller take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays at 3 p.m. and during the guided tours.

A professional library (9,000 books) is open to the public by appointment.

A museum shop.



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Visit our web site at

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THE CRAFT CONNECTION

The Craft Connection (<http://www.craftconn.com/>) is the most exciting place on the Internet if you want to make or sell handcrafts. We sell quality cotton fabric, Mettler and Sulky thread, and quilting notions, all at a discount. Fabrics are linked to coordinating fabrics, so you know your choices will look great together. We try to find fabrics you won't see anywhere else. And we'll package them into packets of fat eighths, fat quarters, or 5" squares, so you can get a good variety without a big cash outlay. Among our fabric categories are florals, pictorials, and guy stuff, and you should see the new Lost Fabrics of Atlantis collection.

Every month some items are for sale at 20 percent off our already discounted prices. You can use your credit card online on our secure server to safely purchase our fabrics and also our crafters' products. If you're a crafter, you can sell here and take credit cards without having your own credit card vendor account.

Check out our Free Stuff. Each month we offer a new pattern and a new lesson. We also have a Calendar of upcoming Quilt Shows. Come by our website at <http://www.craftconn.com>.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, NEWS, IDEAS, BRICKBATS?

Like any news publication, TVQ is always hungry for information about new developments in the area we are trying to cover. If you have an idea for a story, or want to tell the world about something you are doing which relates to computers and quilting, we'd like to hear about it.

We'd like news of new classes starting up to teach quilt design on computers, or new approaches to that teaching. New products, maillists, World Wide Web pages, etc., are all fair game, and we'd appreciate any tips you can provide. Send your tips by e-mail to rholland@atlanta.com.

If you have a comment about an article, a complaint or a correction, we're glad to hear that, too, and may publish some comments as letters to the editor. Again, these may be sent to rholland@atlanta.com.



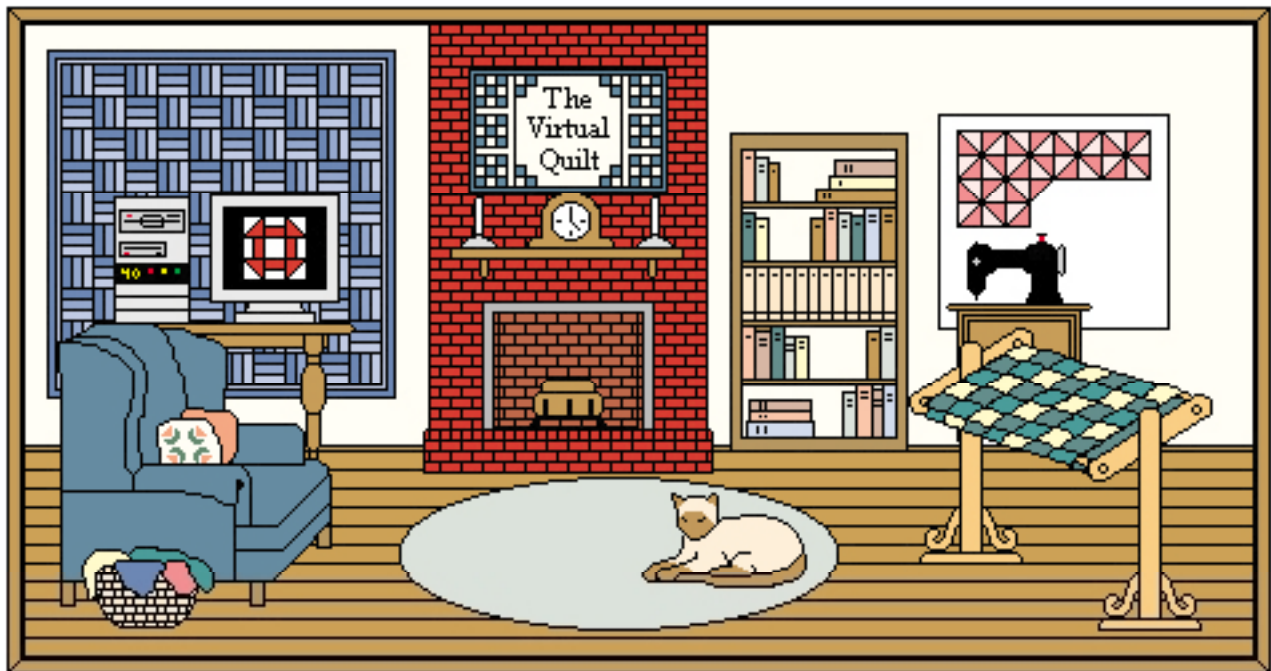
The Virtual Quilt

A Newsletter for
Computing Quilters

Editor and Publisher: Robert Holland, Decatur, GA

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