

GERI PATTERSON-KUTRAS

Lines, Angles and Spaces

“Architecture is the very mirror of life. You only have to cast your eyes on buildings to feel the presence of the past, the spirit of a place; they are the reflection of society.” – I.M. PEI

A few words to get your creative engine humming

What story is your quilt going to tell?

Buildings and cities tell us a story about the people who built them and the people who inhabit them. What story do you interpret from these buildings? Often I like to write a short paragraph about my quilts, it gives me a better understanding of what I’m trying to say with my work. Don’t like to write? Well, just jot down a few words to get started and give yourself intention for this piece. Think about what inspires you about buildings and cities: constantly moving, historic, quaint, colorful or fantasy?

What will your color palette be?

The colors you use convey a lot about the mood of your city. Bright colorful palettes are playful and happy. More somber palettes of gray and grayed colors give the feeling of the end of day or a somber sense of the city. I usually limit my color palette to 5-6 colors and then make sure to

have a good variety of values, light to dark, for each color. In addition light to dark neutrals like gray, black or creams give definition and depth. A few “surprise” colors to give additional interest & pop to your composition.

Fabrics

OOOOOH, here’s one of our favorite topics!! Hand dyes, commercial fabrics that have the look of hand dyes work well. You many also want to consider small prints that give the impression of texture or playfulness. Once again consider what story you’re telling about your city, is it playful or do you love the texture and wear of the buildings? Think about windows! Graphic prints work great and create a story element. The most important factor here for success is a good variety of values! You can take a look at my website to see how I use fabrics in my work, geripkartquilts.com.

SUPPLY LIST

INSPIRATION PHOTOS

Bring photos of city or building scenes to work from.

The success of this composition style is to “fill the page”, so you’ll want a scene with lots of interesting buildings that touch and overlap. Think about a city like San Francisco, New York or Paris where buildings are close/touching each other. You will also want to consider interesting details like

windows and door ways, signs, vehicles or vegetation. We can “borrow” elements like interesting windows, doors and buildings from any of the photos you bring and add them to your composition.

If you need some help or suggestions please contact me at geripkartquilts@aol.com.

geripkartquilts.com • email: geripkartquilts@aol.com

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SESSION II

Sunday To Friday, March 15 – 20, 2020

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SUPPLY LIST (continued)

GENERAL SEWING & DRAWING SUPPLIES

- Sewing machine in good working order. A blanket stitch is my preferred method for appliqué, but if you don't have a blanket stitch we can use others.
- Machine extension table if you have one.
- If you have a walking foot please bring it, this works great for appliqué and quilting
- Quilting foot for free motion work
- Extra machine needles **Top Stitch** sizes 80/12 and 90/14 work well for this project
- Hand sewing needles: I love the **Spiral Eye Needle size 8 (NOT the Sench)**! Order from spiraleyeneedles.com, \$5.50/needle. Indispensable for burying threads! Suggested, not required.
- Cutting mat and rotary cutter with a new blade.
- Quilting rulers: a 3"x18", 8 ½"x24" and 6"x6" I find the best to work with
- Sewing pins and a fabric marker like a chalk pencil or air erase pen
- Scissors both fabric and paper, thread snips
- Threads: A medium neutral gray or beige for piecing. Quilting: Colors to match or contrast your fabrics, black for a more outlined appearance
- Freezer paper, about 4 yards is plenty
- Tracing paper, 2-3 sheets
- 4 yards of WonderUnder
- Pencil, eraser & 12" ruler for drawing your composition. Fine point sharpie for tracing pattern pieces.
- 2 sheets of drawing paper, 11x14" works well for drawing your composition & enlarging at FedEx or Staples
- A notebook & pencil or pen for taking class notes
- Bring \$10 so you can go to FedEx and get your composition enlarged.
- You may want to bring a cushion or your own chair for extra comfort & height at your machine.
- Please no open containers of liquid! If you are going

to drink at your machine bring a container with a tight cover and closable spout. We work close to others and a spill can ruin everyone's day.

- A small camera or a smart phone with camera capabilities.
- Table lamp, if you need more light
- Something to cover your work space at night

FABRIC

- Fat quarters and ½ yard pieces work very well for this technique. Stick with cottons so we can focus on the technique rather than extra handling for specialty fabrics.**
- 5-6 colors, about 3-4 values from light to dark per color. If you don't understand "value" Joen Wolfrom's "Ultimate Color Tool" is fabulous! Or, go to a hardware store for paint color chips these are an example of single color from light to dark. Additionally there is an explanation of **value** on my website you can read or print: geripkartquilts.com, the **Class Notes** tab
- 5-6 pieces for **detail/interest** elements like roof tops, trees, cars, streets, windows, & sky.
- Include a few neutrals like black and gray, once again bring an assortment from light to dark.
- 2-3 "surprise" colors like bright orange, fuchsia, purple, gold etc. to provide interest and pop! (No need for value assortment)
- 2 yards of Pellon EK130 White Easy Knit Fusible Apparel Interfacing

BATTING & BACKING

- Bring a 40"x40" piece of low loft batting. Hobbs 80/20 or Warm & Natural work very well. Also a backing fabric that is 40"x40". This size is manageable for a weeks' worth of creating and stitching. My goal is to ensure you have a successful, creative week at Empty Spools so working in a manageable size that doesn't overwhelm our imaginative processes is key!

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!" – DR. SEUSS