



PRAGUE
PATCHWORK
MEETING



09/12

NEWSLETTER

Dear friends of Prague Patchwork Meeting,

The project of „Doves from Afghanistan“ has been hugely successful. It is my pleasure to announce a new project prepared by Pascale Goldenberg to support the women from Afghanistan. This time it is all about the embroidered diamonds from Hazara. Take a minute to read the story of Hazara women and join the challenge!

And if you would prefer something more „classic“, have a look at the Coats Czecho project. We will be bringing you a new quilt next month, but I think the Karavan is difficult to resist.

Anna Štěrbová

The best for patchwork...

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www.sicistroj.cz

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Content

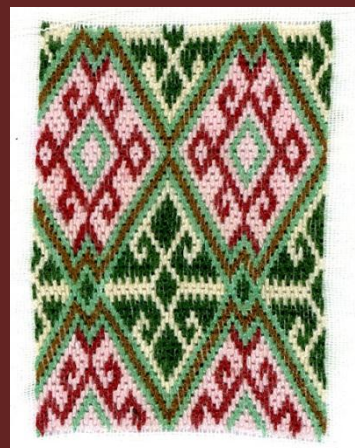
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**„The women from Hazara
are famous for their
embroideries..“**

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Hazara Embroideries

Introduction to the new Afghanistan Project

The popular embroidered doves, which were presented all over the world, were returned to their owners, bringing a new invitation. This time, quilters will have the chance to work with embroidered silk rectangles, which are made by the women in Hazara, Afghanistan. This are now gets more attention, being a bit hidden behind the Laghmani area, from where the first project originated.

The first exhibition will take place in Paris within the textile exhibition „Aiguille en Fete“ and will be presented at many other places during 2013.

Unfortunately the whole project could not commence sooner as there were not enough embroidered pieces ready. Life in Afghanistan is a lot slower and transport is quite complicated as well, making things even more complicated.

However, you can still take place. All you need to do is check Google for Pascale Goldenberg's album on Picasa and chose a piece you like from the AET (Aiguille en Fete) section. All you need to take part in the project is one piece that sets off your imagination.

Further information will be shared after I return from Afghanistan in October. You can read more details about the projects on the next pages, I hope that it will inspire you and make you join!

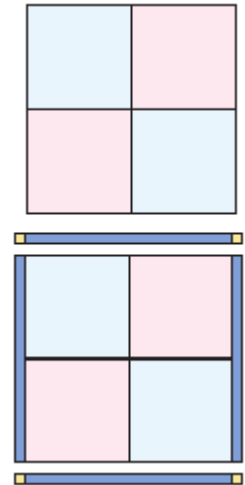
Pascale Goldenberg, Email: goldenberg-freiburg@t-online.de

Quilts with Coats Czecho – Karavan Part 2

Quilt Center:

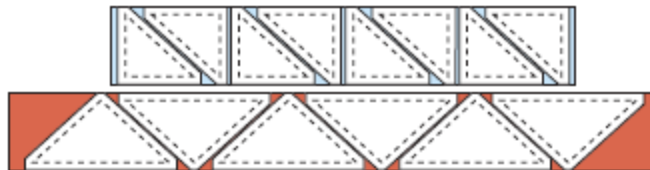
1. Lay out the two Fabric B and two Fabric C 10-1/2" (26.7cm) squares in two rows of two squares each, alternating the colors. Sew squares into rows, sew rows together.

2. Stitch a 1-1/2" x 20-1/2" (3.81cm x 52.1cm) Fabric I strip to sides of the center squares. Sew a 1-1/2" (3.81cm) Fabric Esquare to both ends of the other two (3.81cm x 52.1cm) Fabric I strips. Add these to the top and bottom of the squares completing the quilt center.



Inner Borders:

1. Using templates, cut (20) Small Triangles, (4) Small Edge Triangles and (4) reverse Small Edge Triangles from the 2-1/2" x WOF (6.35cm x WOF) Fabric F strips. Also cut (24) Small Triangles from 2-1/2" x WOF (6.35cm x WOF) Fabric G strips.



2. Piece 4 borders as shown



Continues on page 5...

The Embroidery of the Hazara women

The ethnic group of Hazara is a Mongolian descendant and the third largest ethnic group in Afghanistan. They belong to the Shiite minority in Afghanistan and are usually slaves to the other ethnic groups, especially the Pashtunes, often abused as scapegoats for anything and everything. They have often been victims of massacres and after decades of banishment and wandering, they have finally settled in the so-called Hazarajat in central Afghanistan. Many of the population also live scattered throughout the rest of Afghanistan, in Pakistan and in the Iran.

Close to Herat in western Afghanistan, former fugitives who have returned from the Iran have founded the new community of Sharak, together with the Hazara who remained in Afghanistan during the war. The little town Sharak can be seen as a kind of ghetto as nearly the entire population is Hazara. The DAI have been supporting a women's community centre there for several years. Here, courses in alphabetization, English, sewing and tailoring and even in drawing and karate are offered.

The Hazara women are known to be excellent embroiderers within the traditional Afghan textile skills, as they master a great variety of embroidery techniques. It was important to me to enrich this geographical area in which the DAI is very active, with an embroidery project, and also to resurrect other embroidery techniques. The first attempts developed in written form and the first results, though meager showed a great deal of promise. In the summer of 2009 I travelled to Herat for the first time to meet the women from Sharak. We discovered that only those women, who had not left the country during the war, were really proficient in the traditional embroidery craft. Others, who had found asylum in the Iran, completely refused the old technique or had completely forgotten it.

Although the Hazara women are considered to be more independent than others in Afghanistan, I met very shy women (I did not even dare to ask for a photograph when I left) and it was only due to the indispensable intercession of Mrs. Aquila Nazari, the Directress of the women's centre possible, to persuade 5 women to relearn this old embroidery technique.

We met three times to build up mutual trust and to decide on the technical conditions for the new project. We discussed and decided on the prices that should be set for two different types of embroidery, Keshide (which is a colorful needlework similar to the Venetian Tapisserie) and Kandaharidusi (of the Tshadris, the complete veiling which is all in white). The embroidery should be made solely with silk yarn, sponsored by the "Madeira Yarn" company. As the women lost most of their belongings during the hardships of the war, they have nearly no traditional patterns, so I sent them a collection of photographs of these patterns after my return to Freiburg.

The first delivery from Sharak arrived in Freiburg in the late spring of 2010. 35 women actually participated in the project. The appraisal of the embroidery work showed us that some of the women had kept strictly to the sent patterns, whereby others had skillfully managed to combine them. Some pieces of work could even be described as very successful improvisations.

Many thanks to Rateb Assimi from Herat for his very friendly assistance and his open house! Until now I have not offered individual pieces of embroidery in an album on the gallery, as the scanning and uploading is too time-consuming. These pieces are different. Because they are expensive, it makes more sense to invest the time. The embroidery was scanned in its packaging (Cellphane or PVC foil). This affects the quality of the reproduction little, if at all. As always, the colors generally appear a little darker than they really are.

The prices are negotiated with the Shahrak embroiderers, who are remunerated accordingly. I warned the women that their price is comparatively high even for Europe, and we must thus wait to see whether the pieces can still be sold. The fact is that this embroidery is really masterfully

The Embroidery of the Hazara women

executed and is very labor-intensive. The women also possess a strong, if sometimes surprising, sense of color.

What can you do with these little treasures? Assemble them as brooches, appliqué them onto a special blouse, frame them? Who has further ideas?

An explanatory text is provided as an attachment, and you'll find photos in the fourth album under the usual link (see below). As always, orders can be placed directly through me.

Your work should develop from the original embroidery, and grow from this small Afghan seed. Any hand or machine techniques and fabrics may be used. The choice of form and interpretation are up to you. The work will be hung by a corner and may not be larger than 40 x 40 cm.

The work should be designed so that it can hang freely like a mobile in the exhibition space. You will need to attach a small loop (ribbon, buttonhole stitch or other) to the chosen corner or tip, on the edge of the work. Although this needn't be a truly double-sided piece, the back will be seen, so it should be well finished. It should show your name and country as well as the title of the piece.

Only one entry per person will be accepted. Your entry should be entirely original; copies or partial copies from models are not allowed. A group entry would also be allowed.

Please complete the attached application form.

Entries must be made on CD (i.e. digital photographs). Communications will be handled by email: (goldenber-freiburg@t-online.de).

Cost to the participant includes:

- purchase of the original Hazara embroidered diamond
- postage for the CD and entry form
- postage for the finished work if selected (including return shipment)
- an entry fee of 5€ to cover jury and exhibition expenses

Best wishes,

Pascale

Link to the 4th photoalbum:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/nlsgoldi/ProjetAfghanistanStickereiEmbroideryBroderie?authkey=BqpOPdNxxtU#>



Adopted from the web of the project

Quilts with Coats Czecho – Karavan Part 2

3. With red points facing out, stitch two borders to right and left sides of quilt center. Add a 2-1/2" (6.35cm) Fabric E square to each ends of the remaining pieced borders and add these to top and bottom of quilt center.

4. Trim two 5-1/2" x WOF (14cm x WOF) Fabric D strips to the width of the quilt. Stitch a 5-1/2" (14cm) Fabric H square to both ends of the trimmed strips. Sew remaining 5-1/2" x WOF (14cm x WOF) Fabric D strips to right and left sides of quilt, press and trim excess. Add prepared top and bottom borders.

Middle Borders:

1. Using templates, cut (20) Medium Triangles, (4) Medium Edge Triangles and (4) reverse Medium Edge Triangles from the 4-1/2" x WOF (11.43cm x WOF) Fabric F strips. Also cut (24) Medium Triangles from 4-1/2" x WOF (11.43cm x WOF) Fabric I strips.

2. Referring to the quilt graphic, piece four Fabric F/I pieced borders. Stitch to right and left sides of quilt. Add a 4-1/2" (11.43cm) Fabric J squares to both ends of remaining Fabric F/I pieced borders then add to top and bottom of quilt. **3.** Stitch (5) 5-1/2" x WOF (14cm x WOF) Fabric D strips together end-to-end. From this strip cut two strips the width of the quilt. Stitch a 5-1/2" (14cm) Fabric H square to both ends of the trimmed strips. Cut remaining border into two equal lengths then sew them to right and left sides of quilt. Add prepared top and bottom borders.

Outer Borders:

1. Using templates, cut (32) Large Triangles, (4) Large Edge Triangles and (4) reverse Large Edge Triangles from the 6-1/2" x WOF (16.51cm x WOF) Fabric F strips. Also cut (36) Large Triangles from 6-1/2" x WOF (16.51cm x WOF) Fabric G strips.

2. Referring to the quilt graphic, piece four Fabric F/G pieced borders. Stitch to right and left sides of quilt. Add a 6-1/2" (16.51cm) Fabric I squares to both ends of remaining Fabric F/G pieced borders. Stitch to right and left sides of quilt. Add a 6-1/2" (16.51cm) Fabric I squares to both ends of remaining Fabric F/G pieced borders then add to top and bottom of quilt.

3. Make two borders each with (2) 10-1/2" x WOF (26.7cm x WOF) Fabric A strips sewn together end-to-end. Trim these strips the width of the quilt. Stitch a 10-1/2" (27.7cm) Fabric K square to both ends of the trimmed strips. Make two borders each with (2) 10-1/2" x 36" (26.7cm x 91.5) Fabric A strips sewn together end to end. Sew these to right and left sides of quilt, press and trim excess. Add prepared top and bottom borders.

4. Sew (9) 2-1/2" x WOF (6.35cm x WOF) Fabric I strips together end-to-end. Cut into four equal lengths. Sew borders to right and left sides of quilt, press and trim. Add remaining two borders to top and bottom of quilt, press and trim excess.

Finishing:

1. Sew the three lengths of backing together along selvage edges, creating a quilt backing three fabric widths wide.

2. Layer the backing, batting and quilt top. Quilt or tie as desired.

3. Prepare binding from (9) 2-1/2" x WOF (6.35cm x WOF) Fabric I strips. Sew strips together into one long binding strip. Press strip in half lengthwise.

4. Carefully trim backing and batting even with quilt top.

5. Leaving an 8" tail of binding, sew binding to top of quilt through all layers matching all raw edges. Miter corners. Stop approximately 12" from where you started. Lay both loose ends of binding flat along quilt edge. Where these two loose ends meet, fold them back on themselves and press to form a crease. Using this crease as your stitching line, sew the two open ends of the binding together right sides together. Trim seam to 1/4" and press open. Finish sewing binding to quilt.

6. Turn binding to back of quilt and blind stitch in place

Application – Project Afghanistan

Creative Threads – from Afghanistan to Europe

Hazara embroidery, special “diamond” edition

Application to be completed in CAPITALS, as a Word document on a CD

Last name, first name: (capitals)

Address: (capitals)

City / Postcode / Country: (capitals)

Telephone (landline), including country code:

Email (obligatory):

Title of your work:

Insured value (up to 300 €):

I am entering my work for the exhibition “Creative Threads – from Afghanistan to Europe” and I accept the following conditions:

- The decision of the jury is final.
- I will make this work available for the duration of the show “l’Aiguille en Fête 2013” and afterwards if required (see below).
- I will cover the cost of postage, including return postage,
- Images of my work may be used for the purposes of promoting the exhibition/s.

I understand that my work may be shown at other textile-related events as arranged by the organisation, and make it available for as long as a year.

YES NO

This application includes:

- A CD with my full name in block capitals. The CD will include up to 3 digital images of the front of my work and 1 image of the back, plus my completed application form in Word format.
- A printed copy of the application form, completed by hand, dated and signed.
- A self-addressed envelope for postal notification of the jury’s decision, in addition to the email notification.
- A 5-euro bill to cover administrative costs.

Applications should be sent to:

Pascale Goldenberg - Concours AEF
Hofackerstr.7
D- 79110 Freiburg
Germany

Organisation:

Société « Côte Salons » and Pascale Goldenberg for the Deutsch-Afghanische Initiative de Freiburg – Germany

** The CD will not be returned; it will be destroyed*