

Abstract

Category: **FALG** FAMG TMLG TMMG
Level: **Professional** Graduate Undergraduate
Title: **Through the Garden Window**

Purpose: Anxiously waiting for spring to arrive, I longingly look out the garden window to see the first blooms of spring come alive on the twisted plum branches, otherwise barren of leaves. The tree is framed by the gray sky of winter that threatens to cover the tree with a blanket of snow before it gives way to the warm rays of spring. It is this image that inspired the gown and felted jacket, "Through the Garden Window."

Process: The felt fabric was created using pre-felting techniques. For this process, wool is carded using a 3-layer technique, rather than the traditional 6-layers, then felted just until the fibers begin to felt. The pre-felt is cut-out in the required design shapes and colors, then hand-stitched together to create the finished design, similar to putting together the pieces of a stained glass window. Once the piece is assembled, it is placed on another 3-layer batting of fiber, and the felting / fulling process is completed.

Techniques: Once the felted fabric was complete, the jacket shaping was developed using both flat pattern and draping techniques; the seams were sewn using lapped seams to reduce the bulk created from the thick handmade felt. The radiating pleats of the dress skirt and the pin-tucks on the bodice were constructed first; then the dress was created using flat pattern techniques.

Materials: 100 Merino Wool in the jacket, 100% cotton sateen for the dress

Date Completed: March, 2008

Measurements: Bust – 33" Waist – 25" Hip – 35"

