

CHALLENGING

Floor Plan

DESIGNED AND MADE
BY PAM ROCCO

“What was I thinking?” is a question we often ask ourselves. When it comes to quilts, Pam Rocco of Santa Cruz, California, says she often doesn’t know what she was thinking until she sees what she sewed, and then everything becomes clear. Before making *Floor Plan*, she made three other quilts that depict aerial views of landscapes, whether she initially set out to do so or not. Then it occurred to her that she could make a quilt based on the floor plan of the house she shares with her husband.

“Without measuring the house, I drew a rough sketch, then made it in fabric as best I could,” she said. “If you look at the bottom of the quilt, you’ll see our garage and the front door. Walk in, and you’ll see stairs going to the upper and lower floors, with the living room (actually, my sewing room) beyond. To the left, you’ll find the kitchen and dining room, where doors open onto a deck.”

Follow the instructions and challenge yourself to make a floor plan quilt that pleases you, whether it’s based on memories of the house you grew up in, a realistic representation of the home you live in now or a dream layout of your house of the future.

You can read Rocco’s full column, “Words to Quilt By,” in the April/May 2014 issue of *Quilters Newsletter*. *Floor Plan* was machine quilted by Linda Barbin of Hollister, California. ▶

MATERIALS NEEDED

Sketch Paper and/or Graph Paper

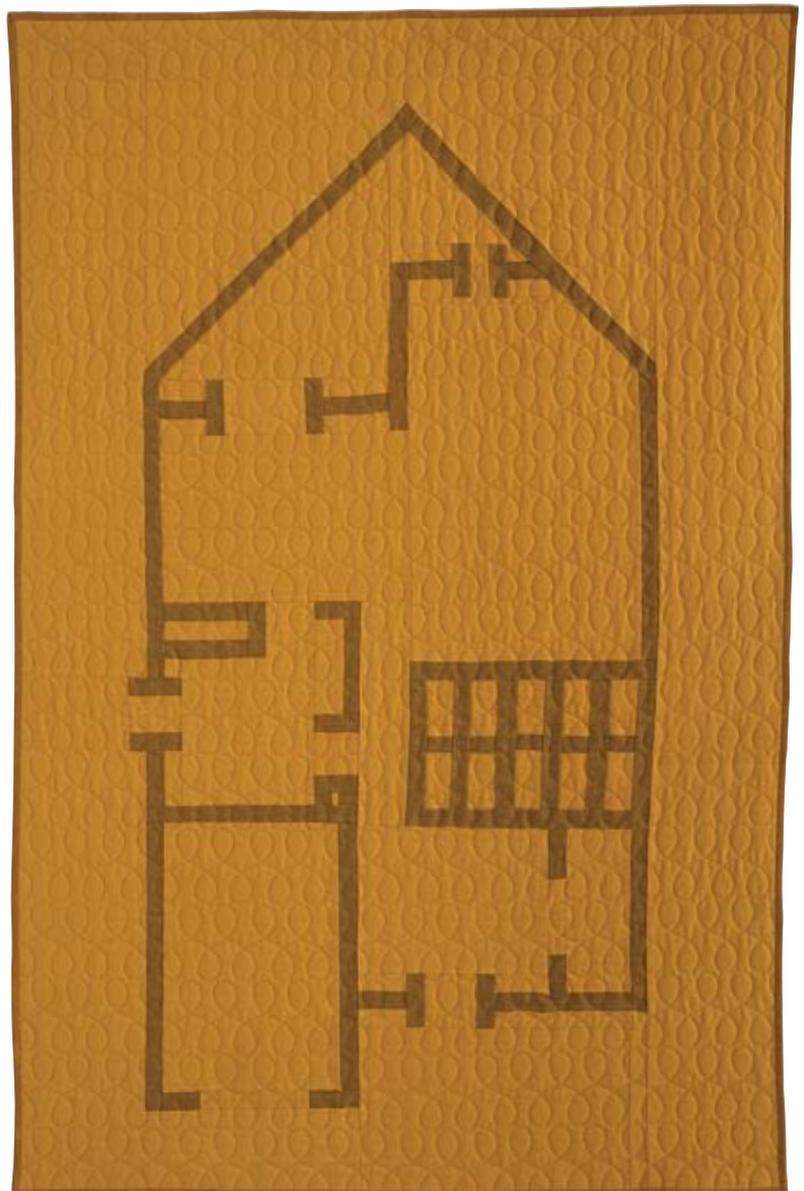
Dark Solid Fabric

Background Neutral Fabric

Fabric for binding

Backing and batting 4” longer and wider than the finished dimensions of the quilt top

TECHNIQUES USED: machine piecing, strip piecing, improvisational piecing, set-in seams, machine quilting



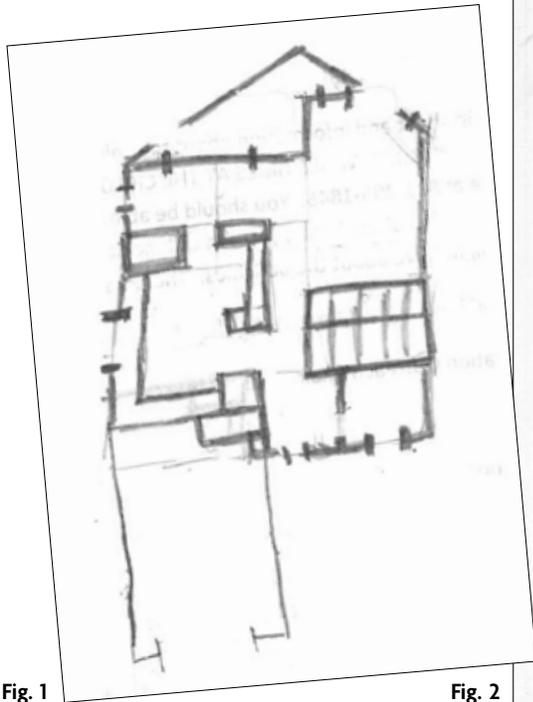


Fig. 1

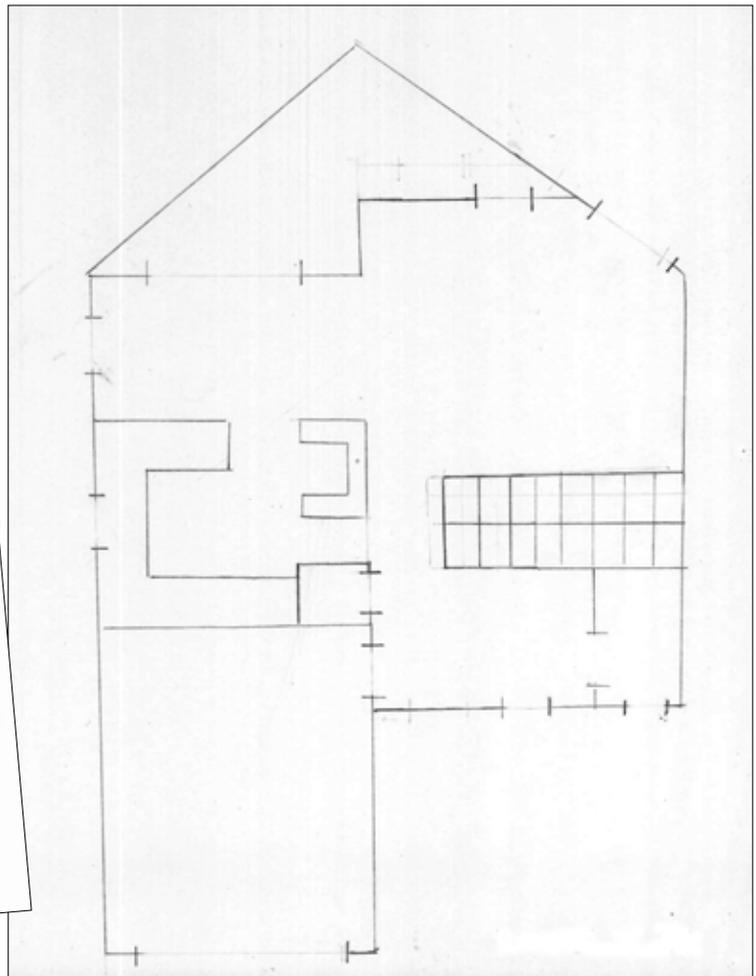


Fig. 2

ASSEMBLY

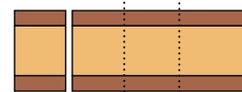
1 Sketch out a floor plan of a house you want to represent. It is not important that it be true to life or to scale. Do not worry about measurements at this time; just get the basic layout on paper. Use a grid formation to represent stairs going up and down; use short lines perpendicular to walls to represent doorways (Fig. 1).

2 Draw a more formalized version on sketch paper (Fig. 2). Decide on an approximate finished size for the house and on a finished width for strips that will represent walls. You may want to use $\frac{1}{8}$ " graph paper to finalize dimensions if keeping things in proportion is important. For ease of construction, keep doorways and stairs uniform widths where possible. You may want to draw lines on your sketch demarcating square or rectangular areas to indicate where seam lines will be. Taking into account the finished width of the strips for walls, you may also want to calculate and label your sketch with the finished sizes of patches you will cut from the background neutral fabric. Review your sketch and look for logical places where smaller units and patches can be joined into larger square or rectangular segments; make

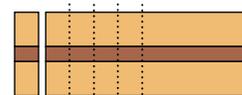
notes on your sketch as needed. Use your sketches and notes while cutting and joining fabric for guidance. Note that Rocco drew only the small sketch shown in Fig. 1 before starting to sew *Floor Plan*, so make as few or as many sketches, notes and calculations as you need to.

3 The use of a design wall or large, flat surface is recommended during the construction of this quilt. Referring to your sketch for the finished dimensions of your doorways, cut two dark solid strips and one background neutral strip, adding $\frac{1}{2}$ " to each for seam allowances. Join them to make a doorway band. Again referring to your sketch, cut segments from the band the widths needed for the doorways. Roughly place them on your design wall.

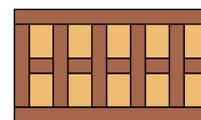
In a similar fashion, cut two wide background neutral strips and one narrow dark solid strip and make a stairway band. Cut segments to the desired widths then join them alternately with dark solid strips to make a stairway unit like Rocco's. Make stairway units as needed and roughly position them on your design wall. ▶



DOORWAY BAND

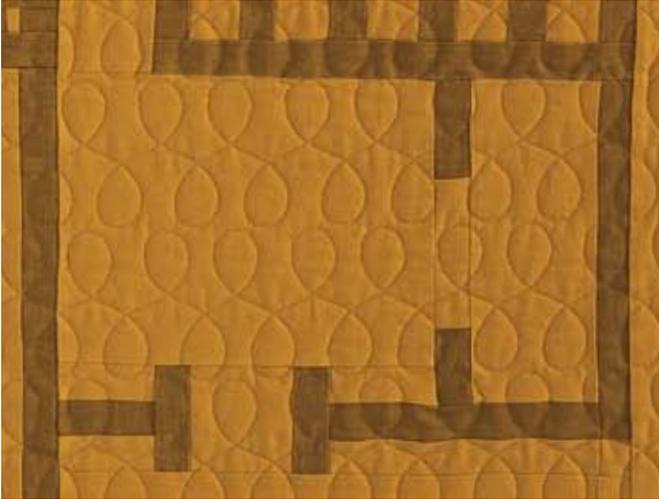


STAIRWAY BAND



STAIRWAY UNIT





4 Cut the remaining strips and patches needed, adding seam allowances to the finished dimensions, and place them on your design wall.

5 When you are satisfied with the arrangement, start joining smaller patches and units to make larger segments based on the rooms of the house. Continue in this fashion, joining larger segments in a logical fashion. Join units and patches with set-in seams (or Y seams) when necessary by joining two patches or units and stopping sewing $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edge; backstitch to secure the seam. Mark a dot $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edges on the wrong side of the remaining patch at the corner to be inserted (Fig. 3). Align the raw edge of the patch with the raw edge of the unit, right sides together; insert a pin through the dot and align it with the corner of the intersecting seam lines of the unit for placement (Fig. 4). Pin the patch to the unit. Join the patch to the unit along the raw edge and backstitch at the dot. In a similar fashion, pin the adjacent side of the patch to the remaining raw edge of the unit, backstitch at the dot then join the patch to the unit along the raw edge (Fig. 5).

Join all segments and patches to complete the house portion of the quilt top.

6 Add borders as desired.

7 Layer the backing, batting and quilt top. Baste. Quilt an all-over design or quilt as desired. Bind the quilt to finish. 

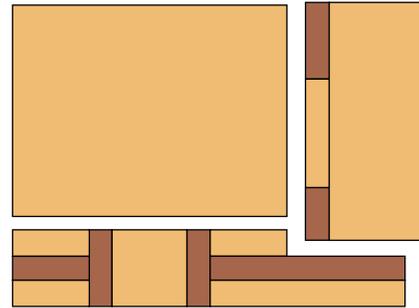


Fig. 3

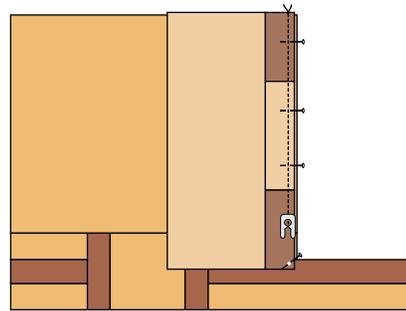


Fig. 4

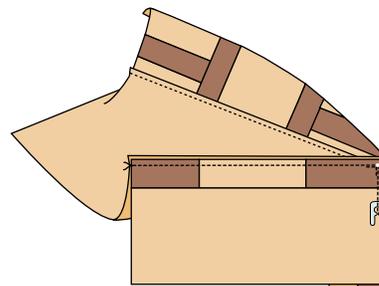


Fig. 5