

Moresca



2010

WELCOME TO THUNDER JANE GARDEN



Dear Friends and Patrons

On the recommendation of a member, who happened to see it, our garden was chosen by The Garden Conservancy to be one of the 360-plus gardens in the US on their Open Days program.

The date is July 10, 2010, 1-7 PM, rain or shine. Admission \$5, (kids free), which goes toward preserving major gardens nation wide, such as Pearl Fryar's (check that one out!) All are welcome, especially garden geeks! Check www.gardenconservancy.org for more information on this and other gardens all over the US.

So, we needed a name, it's official.

It was a welcome shot in the arm to me, after seven years of puttering on my own.

The original intention was to heal up the land after a decade of construction, but before long I was fathoms deep in a new, exquisite affliction. There is no known cure.

So now you know why I don't show up at Faires.

Last season it rained every other day, as you know, so when it was too wet to weed or mow, I started on a book about the gardens. I hope it will be ready this summer.

My dog Pinoche wrote most of it.



THE MEGA

According to my records, the Mega was a new item in January 1992.

At that time, we had one boned bodice style ("Steel bone", we still have it) and were discontinuing un-boned bodices; - let's face it, they don't do the trick we've become accustomed to expect.

That the Mega survived unchanged for 18 years and is still selling, is a testimony to the soundness of the design (not to mention the plethora of knock-offs floating around out there!) BUT, we've become more sophisticated.

We expect a bodice to re-shape us, give us a lift and a new waist.

This is beyond the capability of mere unaided fabrics, which groan and buckle under the strain.

In 2008 we gave the original Mega a last chance, with the most beautiful collection of jacquards we've ever had. Did it sell? Yeess...

but not as much as it needed to, to justify the huge fabric investment (7-8 yards each and 20 yards each of two kinds of trim).

The other problem with the Mega, is the 12 sizes, which have become hard to fit into our faire booths. With only one laced opening, sizing is very limited.

Since the bodice is attached to the rest of the dress, there is nothing to do about it, if either girth or length doesn't fit.

Since the entire hem is double-trimmed, hemming it up is not an easy option.



4 So here's what we did:

We made a new, separate bodice, in matching velvet, such as we have long wanted to make, without shoulder straps and fully boned, with three laced openings and expansion inserts in front. We attached the sleeves to a separate, collared "yoke" in the same velvet, that sits snugly on your shoulders and can be taken off if you want to be sleeve-less. The silhouette of it is faintly Tudorish, reminiscent of a partlet.

Since we still have a lot of cut Megas in many colors, a slight alteration gave us two adjustable waist sizes (the skirt is now in two tie-on sections, open and trimmed in the back as well as the front) to our usual three lengths, reducing the size spread to half, while allowing a far greater range of fits. The bodices come in four standard sizes: S, M, L, XL, each with a seven-eight inch range from fully closed to partly open. It is currently available in many of the jacquards shown on our web site and in our '08 flyer.

Most of the jacquards are available custom, if you want the same fabric in all the parts, as some of you may want for a wedding.

MEGA SET: SKIRT, SLEEVES/YOKE, BODICE, \$350

SKIRT, SLEEVES/YOKE ONLY, \$200

MEGA BODICE ONLY, \$175

Custom mega Set, \$400 and up



THE OFF-SHOULDER SHIFT

in its original cut, no longer makes any sense with our designs. It had its day when we had Veronas 1-4 in regular stock. It's too skimpy for Megas and doesn't fit over a standard hoop. The all-cotton material, though, is still unbeatable in hot weather. We expanded the pattern, making everything wider and longer (see picture with old shift on top) including the ruff at the wrist. This took the fabric consumption from 4 1/2 yards to over 7 yards per shift. The price increase reflects the extra fabric consumption. We still have the older shift, at the old price, but will not be re-cutting it.

BIG OFF-SHOULDER SHIFT, S, L, \$95



CORDEROY BODICE (left)

We've decided to reinstate this one, rescuing it from the crypt where it has lurked in a few remaining impossible color combinations. We've made them all solid color, a simple, well-fitting bodice for the barn-yard wenches and scullery maids we all need to be on occasion, or when comfort is more important than cleavage. It's three openings, lightly boned make it easy to fit just about anyone.

CORDEROY BODICE, S, M, L, XL
\$75



GITANA

Launched in the fall of '09, many of you already have one (or three, for that matter). Since then, by popular request, we've added four colors to the original six. The swatches are on the opposite, right.

It's made of our new, poly shot taffeta, also used in the FALDA '09, mixed with our cotton gauze in a tightly pleated ruffle around the very full skirt.

We became so enchanted with the pleated cotton/taffeta combinations (and our new pearl-stitch machine, for the edging) that we needed to make some more things with it; - thus the

GITANA ROSE

A clip-on flower to go with the already enormously versatile skirt and just about anything else you may be wearing.

It is available in all ten Gitana combinations, with a velvet and metallic mesh covered button, it attaches to your hair, turban, decolletage or shoe with the heftiest alligator clip we could find.





GIYANA SKIRT

One adjustable size. Colors available as shown. Washable, the cotton part of the ruff may shrink a bit if you machine dry it. \$110

GIYANA ROSE CLIP

About five inches across, with a sturdy alligator clip. All ten colors are in this flyer, you just have to find them. \$25

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT:
 We've come to prefer "candid" event shots to studio pictures, so if you have a decent picture (that you own) from a Faire or other event, that you'd like to share with our other patrons, please send it to us. We can't really use cell phone pics, but prefer the authenticity over quality.





MORESCA SEASON 2010

SPRING OPEN HOUSE AT MORESCA – MARCH 27 thru APRIL 11. Open 11 AM to 6 PM daily. Call (845) 331-6012 for directions and information, or visit us online at moresca.com. **WE'RE PLANNING ON AN EGG HUNT EASTER SATURDAY, WEATHER PERMITTING.**

SCARBOROUGH FAIRE at Waxahachie, TX: APRIL 10 thru MAY 31, weekends, including Memorial Day. Hours are 10 AM to 7 PM. Visit us in booth #182 in Pecan Grove. Call (888) 533-7848 or (972) 938-3247 for information. Web: scarboroughrenfest.com

GEORGIA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL near Atlanta, GA: APRIL 17 thru JUNE 6, weekends including Memorial Day. Hours are 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM. We're in booth #T3, Old Town 3, on the right as you enter. Call (770) 964-8575 for information. Web: garenfest.com

SUMMER OPEN HOUSE AT MORESCA: JUNE 12 thru JUNE 20. Open 11 AM to 6 PM daily. Call (845) 331-6012 for information. Web: www.moresca.com

The NY FAERIE FESTIVAL, near Binghamton, JUNE 25-27, Fri.12-7, Sat 10-6, Sun.11-6. Call 607-655-1376 for details. Web: nyfairiefest.com.

STERLING RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL at Sterling, NY: JULY 3 thru AUGUST 15, weekends. Hours are 10:30 AM to 7 PM. Call (800) 879-4446 for information. Web: sterlingfestival.com

THE NEW YORK RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL at Tuxedo, NY: AUGUST 7 - SEPTEMBER 26 weekends, including Labor Day. Hours are 10 AM to 7 PM. Visit us at #17, Market Square by the Puss 'n Boots Inn. Call (845) 351-5171 for information. Web: recfaire.com/NY

MARYLAND RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL at Crownsville, MD: AUGUST 28 thru OCTOBER 24, weekends, including Labor Day. Hours are 10 AM to 7 PM. We're located at 206 Valley Meade just down from O'Shucks Pub. Call (800) 296-7304 for information, or www.rennfest.com

KING RICHARD'S FAIRE at Carver, MA: SEPTEMBER 4 thru OCTOBER 24, weekends including Labor Day and Columbus Day. Hours are 10:30 AM to 6 PM. We're in booth #5 Lancaster Lanenext to the dance stage. Call (508) 866-5391 for information. Web: kingrichardsfaire.net

THE TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL near Houston, TX: OCTOBER 9 thru NOVEMBER 28, weekends. Hours are 9 AM to Dusk. We're in booth #304 next to the Feast Hall. Call (800) 458-3435 for information, Web: texrenfest.com

FAERIECON, Marriot Hunt Valley Inn, near Baltimore. Nov.12,13,14. Web: Faeriecon.com

WINTER OPEN HOUSE AT MORESCA: NOVEMBER 26 thru DECEMBER 5. Open 11 AM to 6 PM daily. Call (845) 331-6012 for information. Web: Moresca.com

Pennsic - pending

NEW BANNERS

A bit more elaborate than our old cotton banners. These are lighter and more durable and come in a great many color combinations (3 colors per set, plus the bias edge in the same fabric) to complement your event, your booth or your garden. They are in our new poly two-tone taffeta. We've tested them outdoors for several weeks and they seem to hold up very well. The longest banner is 33 inches long and a set is 10 feet. Rings on the ends make them easy to hang. \$55



We've had the "high-twist" rayon/acetate stripe since 2002. We love it and we hate it; - we love the drape and texture, the Middle Eastern association, the depth of color created by the black warp, the way it sets everything off and its usefulness as a bias trim.

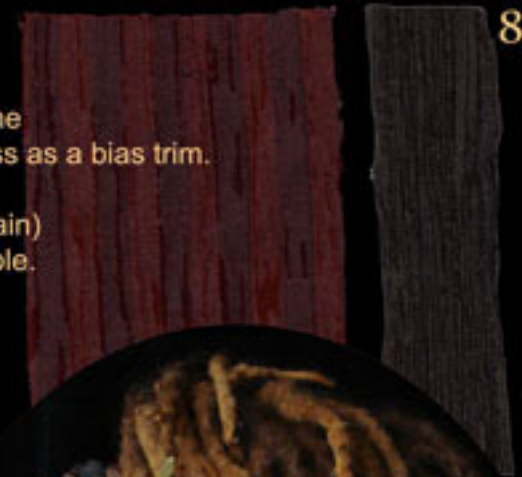
We hate the fact that it contracts to a rope when it gets wet (even if it relaxes again, once dry, and can be ironed flat again) and the fact that the American mills that made this stuff folded just after we launched it, making any new colors unfeasible.

We've been searching for a replacement for four years. So. We've finally managed to have it custom made in Taiwan. This will make it continuously available in any colors we want, with a three month lead time.

The high-twist construction, which creates the drape, is the same, but the fiber content is now rayon/poly instead of rayon/acetate. This has almost entirely removed the annoying contraction when wet (see picture, top right, showing a sopping wet sample of the new vs the old Matisse).

We've machine washed and dried it and ended up with a viably wearable garment.

It is also slightly more substantial. Our cost is somewhat higher, which may reflect in the price of some of our fabric-heavy designs, like Sufi Pants and Sufi skirts.



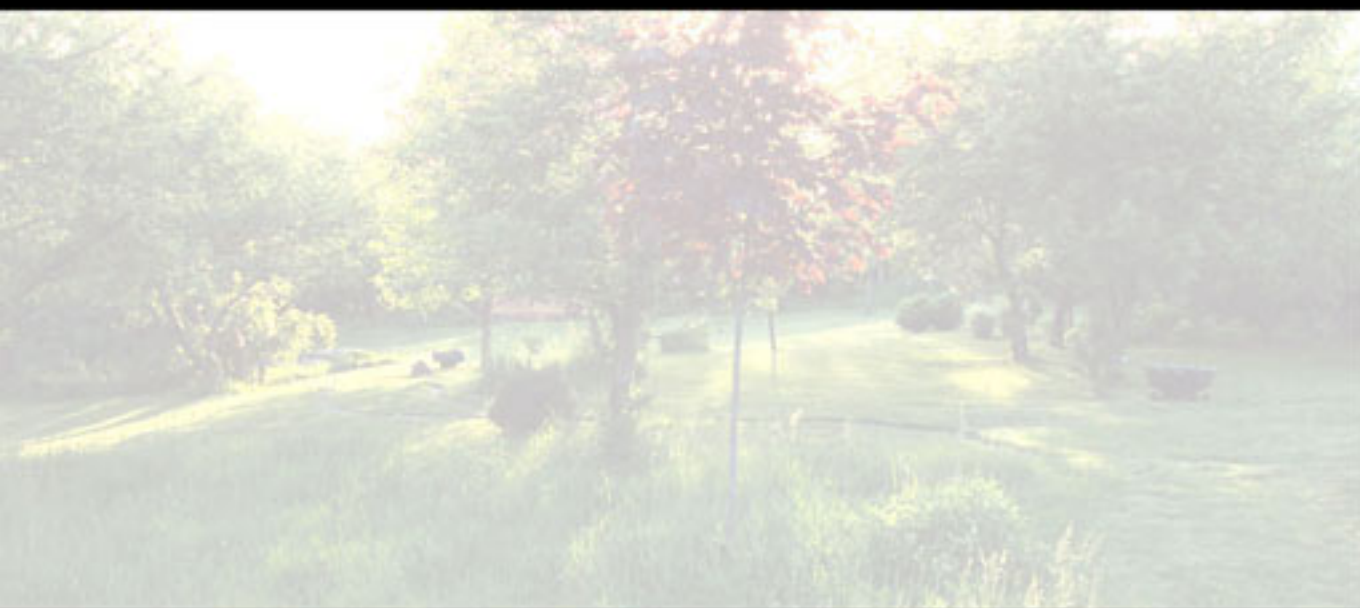
The old mill called it "Matisse", so we've stayed with the name. He was, after all a lover of the Levant and all the jazzy stripes.

This balances out our non-brocade, non-velvet, staple fabrics to what we feel is an ideal blend of textures, drapes and color. And they all go together!

They are now: The "Brussels Washer" linen/rayon, the Shimmer satin (yeah, verily we love it as much as you do!), The new shot taffeta (Falda 09, Gitana, etc), and now, finally, the high-twist stripe.

We immediately cut Sashes as you can see here and on the cover.

Besides the grey, a new color, we're planning on a "squash", a "camel" and a good dark bottle green by mid-season.



CREDITS:
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AND DANIELLE MALLOCH, NOT
NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER.

