



WINTER SOLSTICE

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The winter solstice is the year's shortest day and longest night, which caused the ancients to worry each year that the sun might not be able to gain its warmth back again. Midwinter solstice festivals, therefore, centered around the idea of rebirth, to assist the "newborn" sun to grow in strength when it emerged from this dark night. Bearing this theme in mind, the design of this coat integrates both the knitted patterns in the wool fabric and the shape of the pieces of fabric themselves to create the visual imagery of the rebirth of the sun from the dark night. The knitted patterns give a sense of the shape of sun and stars, light-giving entities, and the vertical and angled pieces rise toward the top of the coat, as if to represent the rising of the light.

To felt, the sweaters were washed at least twice in hot water, then dried in a hot dryer. While drying, the sweaters shed numerous fibers, so every 10-15 minutes they were removed and the excess fibers eliminated. The sweaters were cut apart at the seamlines, and the ribbing at the cuffs and lower edge was removed.

Using a basic coat design created through the flat pattern method, sweaters were cut into large pieces and sewn together inspired by the felted sweater design details and colors. Since some sweaters felted at different thicknesses, the lighter-weight pieces were reinforced with scraps of woven wool fabric. Strips of ultrasuede in navy, garnet, tan, and loden were sewn between the felted fabric strips, and a fawn-colored ultrasuede binding was used to edge the coat. The calf-length coat features a stand-up collar, welt pockets, and a back vent. In addition, it is fully lined and the facings, under-collar, welt pockets, and turned-up sleeves are made of navy ultrasuede. Since the coat meets at the center front, an under-flap of felted wool was made to keep out the chill. Finally, the front closure was created using ultrasuede loops and buttons of antique Chinese coins.