



TRIBAL CONNECTIONS

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Inspiration for this design came from the textile used to create it, a Nigerian batik printed on damask. Limiting trim and embellishment to that found in traditional African adornment presented an additional design challenge. The resulting beaded fringed kimono jacket presented a contemporary western usage for the traditional fabric and trim.

The print character was first accentuated dimensionally by quilting. Then the rhythm of the fabric was replicated by use of bone beads dyed with hibiscus tea and arranged to mimic shapes apparent in the print. Finally, ostrich feather fringe, clay beads, and cowry shells were incorporated for emphasis and custom.

Curved fan shapes seen in the print suggested the garment silhouette. Kimono styling was chosen to avoid interrupting the rhythm of the fabric design. Lining and bias binding completed the design by replicating colors found in the shell.