



## **HEIRLOOM: THE AFRICAN LEGACY**

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My goal for this project was to design a coat ensemble utilizing African ethnic printed fabric. My client wanted a coat that would reflect her ethnic heritage. In order to retain the distinctive fabric characteristics such as the bold print, vibrant colors, and texture of the mud cloth, minimal piecing and seaming were used in design.

Inspiration for "Heirloom: The African Legacy" came from various sources. Most instrumental was meeting the needs of my client. She requested a coat reflecting her cultural identity that would also keep her comfortable in Maine's climate.

Five different prints of 6" wide mud cloth were arranged in various layouts to create the desired overall pattern, then hand-sewn together using a whip-stitch. After the coat was constructed, cow suede was placed on the collar and cuffs and was used as the patch pocket. To complete the look of the shawl collar African coins and miniature wooden carved praying hands were hand sewn along the edge of the collar. Coins, brass bells, and wooden praying hands were used as the coat closures. Polar fleece was used to line the coat for additional warmth.

The coat is constructed of 100% cotton mud cloth, embellished with cow suede, lined with 100% polyester fleece. The dress is a cotton/polyester crepe.