



RECYCLING FUR FOR THE MILLENNIUM

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This ensemble was inspired by a sheared beaver collar removed from a worn coat. The challenge was to design a garment that recycled the fur in the sportswear-inspired fashion context of the new millennium with an emphasis on texture.

The jacket was knit on a bulky-gauge Brother knitting machine in a French "anny blatt" wool/polyamide yarn found at the Chicago Yarn Show. The taupe and blue-gray mélange is a perfect complement to the rich, velvety depth of the fur.

Because of this loft, side seam shaping and front and back waist darts were designed into the jacket to eliminate extra bulk on the body. Similarly, a rolled edge finishing technique was used down the front and around the outer edge of the shawl collar. The center back collar seam was woven together so as to be invisible from either side. All hems were completed as the garment was knit. The hems were weighted to give the jacket a professional drape. Inseam pockets were included for function and to add to the sportswear feel. Handmade glass buttons were found to pick up the colors of the yarn.

The body-conscious dress provides reference to the body in contrast with the bulky jacket. It was knit from a wool/rayon yarn of a much finer gauge for texture contrast. The best color match in the chosen yarn turned out to be a bit off. To alter the color, the yarn was plaited with a gray thread resulting in a heather texture. The sheath dress is shaped with knit-in darts. The armhole is finished with the same edge used on the cardigan. The neck edge incorporates two rows of latch tool crochet finished with the bindoff.