



MODERN DESIGNS *for Classic Quilts*

Two friends on a mission to bring contemporary style to traditional techniques



What do you get when you combine a pair of spunky friends, a love of modern quilting and an appreciation for traditional quilt techniques? One of our favorite new quilting books, *Modern Designs for Classic Quilts* (\$24.99, Krause Publications)! Written by Kelly Biscopink and Andrea Johnson, this 128-page book is bursting with color and style, and the projects inside would have any contemporary quilter aching for their rotary cutter and sewing machine.

“The concept was born out of conversations Kelly and I had about modern versus traditional quilting,” Andrea says. “We both agreed that we wanted to see some forward progress in the modern quilting community with skill building, and we came up with the concept of a book that would modernize traditional techniques and blocks.”

Appropriately, co-authors Andrea and Kelly met at the Cincinnati Modern Quilt Guild’s very first meeting and became fast friends via their shared interests and sewing backgrounds.

“We have a very similar style and philosophy when it comes to quilting and sewing, and our conversations we had about them were very congruent,” Andrea says.

“Andie and I talk all the time about how organic the creation of this book was for us,” Kelly adds. “The concept for the book was essentially what she and I like to do with our own quilting and what we saw a need for in the community. This is what we love to do: make traditional quilts fresh and modern.”

The authors share quality instruction in the book that seasoned quilters will appreciate and beginners will find approachable. And the step-by-step projects encompass not only full-size quilts, but also seven “mini-projects” which teach basic construction for a block or technique so that readers can practice before diving into a full bed quilt project.

The book also includes dozens of tips from the authors in the form of sidebar boxes titled “Andrea says...” and “Kelly says...” Here, the duo offers alternative ways of doing things, favorite tricks and more.

“One thing we stress in the book is that the way *we* did it is not necessarily the way *you* have to do it,” Kelly says. “These projects can either be made verbatim the way we did them, or you can riff on the concepts we throw at you. Either way, we think there are some really cool patterns in the book to play with.”

Both Kelly and Andrea say they share a drive to push themselves to learn new things, and this allows them to experiment more fully in their sewing.





“The more you know, the more you can create; and understanding the ‘rules’ of traditional quilting makes them all that much more fun to break,” Andrea says.

In fact, *fun* is a principal objective that Kelly and Andrea hope readers experience via *Modern Designs for Classic Quilts*.

“Andie and I get along because we crack each other up,” Kelly says. “We say goofy stuff and kid around, and we tried to bring our real voices into the book. The community that has formed around the art of quilting is super important to us, and we think it’s important to be genuinely ourselves with that community.”

The talented pair’s affection for quilting and strong joint vision to help bridge the gap between traditional and contemporary quilting are apparent in the final result. Both Kelly and Andrea describe the book as a beloved success – as labors of love often are – and admit that working on a project with their best friend was as good as it gets.

“I think that we each hit a point – luckily at different times – where we were overwhelmed and freaking out a bit,” Kelly says of the writing process. “That was one of the best things about doing this as a team; we talked each other down when we hit those points and provided a support system for each other.”

Andrea says that her favorite part of working on the book was getting to work with Kelly and the natural flow of ideas and support the two shared while co-creating projects and content.

“And the quilts are pretty amazing, too!” she adds.

Stay tuned for more from this talented pair in the months and years to come – from teaching and lecturing to patterns, quilting bees and more. Both can be seen in upcoming projects in our very own *Stitch Craft Create* (see Andrea’s article in this issue on page 58, and a quilt from Kelly in our Summer 2013 edition) as well as other publications. **SCC**

