

the door to hand-screened rulers and templates leaving the dock.

To get some feeling for the areas we visited, we also stopped at Pike Place Market in Seattle and Granville Island in Vancouver, both meccas for craftspeople, souvenirs and some great food.

## NEW YORK

"Overwhelming!" That's how several group members described their visit to the Big Apple.

Our New York tour began with a behind-the-scenes look at pattern production at The McCall Pattern Co. From design inspiration to guidesheet proofing, we followed the process step by step. In addition, design director Sid Tepper told us where the inspirations come from and showed us some of the upcoming Sew News Collection garments.

How are fabrics designed and readied for printing? Springs Industries shared a look at their designing processes—from artists hand painting acetates to CAD operators creating pattern repeats, changing motif size and varying colors, we saw it all.

Stepping back into history, the group visited the archives at FIT, for a "no-touching, just-drooling" look at garments and accessories from the early 1900s to the present. Remember when?

Keeping a finger on things, we ventured to LaCrasia Glove's manufacturing facility and Glove Museum. Who would have thought gloves could be so interesting? Tiny pieces, tediously sewn with mini seam allowances proved to be just that.

Harlem Textile Works beckoned those with a sense of adventure to don an apron, roll up their sleeves and try silk screening a fabric length. With

great skill (and little mess), we each took home a piece of the fabric of many hands. In addition, most group members took home a few pounds of scraps from under the lengthy cutting tables.

One can't visit New York without including a visit to the garment district, and this group was no exception. Most returned to the hotel heavily laden with bags—some even went back for more after carefully stowing their precious finds in their rooms. And some went back yet again on Saturday to see if they missed anything earlier in the week.

Our greatest find was Mood Designer Fabrics, an entire floor of wonderful fabrics—well worth the rooting and moving of rolls to get to the treasures behind.

No tour is complete without a bit of fame and stardom, and we were privileged to visit designer Todd Oldham for a look at his current line and sharing of sewing tips (see "Todd Oldham's Sewing Tips" at right).

Fast and fabulous is the hallmark of garment industry sewing. Elissa Meyrich, owner of Sew Fast Sew Easy, shared some industry shortcuts with our group.

For a look ahead, OTC Buying Services' Joel Karpoff spoke with us about fabric trends for the coming season. Armed with this inside information, our shoppers were able to buy for the future—which is probably when most will get their newly acquired purchases made up!

For information on 1997 Sew'N'Go Tours, see "Write On!" on page 79.



## TODD OLDHAM'S SEWING TIPS

- When creating a jacket with a concealed front placket, stop it short of the jacket's lower edge to minimize bulk.
- The more seams a garment has, the easier it is to fit.
- Choose a contrast lining for a slit skirt—it's fun to see a peek of color when you walk.
- When sewing sequin fabric seams, use tissue paper on both sides of the fabric for hassle-free feeding.
- Use gingham for all fitting samples, as you can immediately see any grain problems.
- When creating buttonholes on single-layer garments, use a rectangular leather patch on the right side for stability.

THANK YOU to the following companies for their generous donation of door prizes and goody bag items:

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the fashion how-to magazine

JANUARY 1997