

# Pattern of the Month

August 2015

*For Members of the MQG*



**MODERN QUILT GUILD**



## Altitudinal Ecosystem

by Michelle Wilkie

*Triangle MQG*

The Modern Quilt Guild's mission is to support and encourage the growth and development of modern quilting through art, education and community. [www.modernquiltguild.com](http://www.modernquiltguild.com)

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# Altitudinal Ecosystem

Finishes at 60" x 60"

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*Altitudinal Ecosystem* is a design I created while participating in Quilt Design a Day. Anne Sullivan (@playcrafts) provided the inspiration photo of lakes, and snow-capped tree covered mountains (30 November 2014). I loved the inspiration as it reminded me of my ecology studies, the mountain highlighting the diversity of species and how they change as altitude increases. This is an Altitudinal Ecosystem.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Seam Allowance:** ¼ inch

## Materials

Fabric A: Shadow – 2 yards

Fabric B: White – 2 yards

Fabric C: Pickle – ¼ yard

Fabric D: Wasabi – ½ yard

Fabric E: Prussian – ¾ yard

Fabric F: Oasis – 2 yards

Backing: 2 yards

Batting: 64" square

Binding: ½ yard

Additional sewing notions that you will help during this project:

- 2 Large cutting mats
- 2 Large quilting rulers
- Straight edged rotary cutter
- Pins

**NOTE:** the fabric requirements are given so that all strips are in one piece. You can save fabric if you choose to use multiple strips joined and measured to size (usually 2 of WOF).

## Cutting Instructions

Fabric A:

- Two (2) 65.5 x 3" strips
- One (1) 5.5 x 3" rectangle
- Seven (7) 40.5 x 3 strips
- One (1) 7.5 x 3" rectangle
- One (1) 21.5 x 3" strip

Fabric B:

- One (1) 63 x 5.5" Strip
- Three (3) 40.5 x 3" strip

Fabric C:

- Two (2) 40.5 x 3" Strips

Fabric D:

- Two (2) 21.5 x 2 ¾ "
- One (1) 17 x 7.5"

Fabric E:

- One (1) 40.5" x 28"

Fabric F:

- One (1) 60 x 39"

## Mountain Block Assembly

These first steps involve the construction of the mountain.

1. Piece Fabric A 5.5 x 3" rectangle with Fabric B 63 x 5.5" strip (**Figure 1**). Press seam in your preferred method.
2. Add the two strips 65.5 x 3" of Fabric A to each side (**Figure 2**). Press seams. Place to the side.



Figure 1

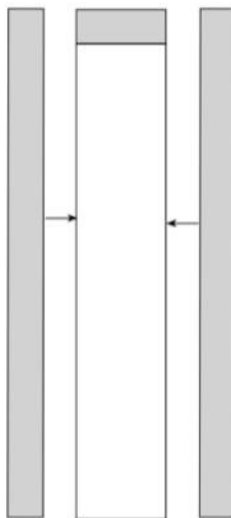


Figure 2

3. Next, piece the wasabi center block of the mountain stripes by:
  - a. Piece Fabric D 21.5 x 2 3/4 " strip → Fabric A 21.5 x 3" strip → Fabric D 21.5 x 2 3/4 " strip together (as in **Figure 3**, arrows 1 +2). Press seams.
  - b. To the left of the striped block in (a), add Fabric A 7.5 x 3" (as in **Figure 3**, arrow 3). Press seams.
  - c. To the left of the block in (b), add Fabric D 17 x 7.5" (as in **Figure 3**, arrow 4). Press seams.

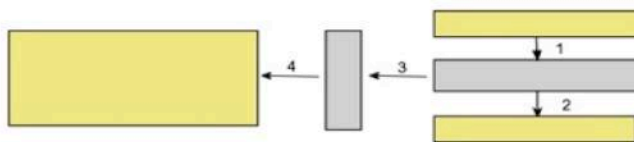


Figure 3

4. Piece the mountain's stripes that represent the altitudinal ecosystem zones, alternating between the sashing and zone color, using the 40.5 x 3" strips from Fabric A, B and C + wasabi center block from step 3 + 40.5" x 28" Fabric E (as in **Figure 4**). Press seams.

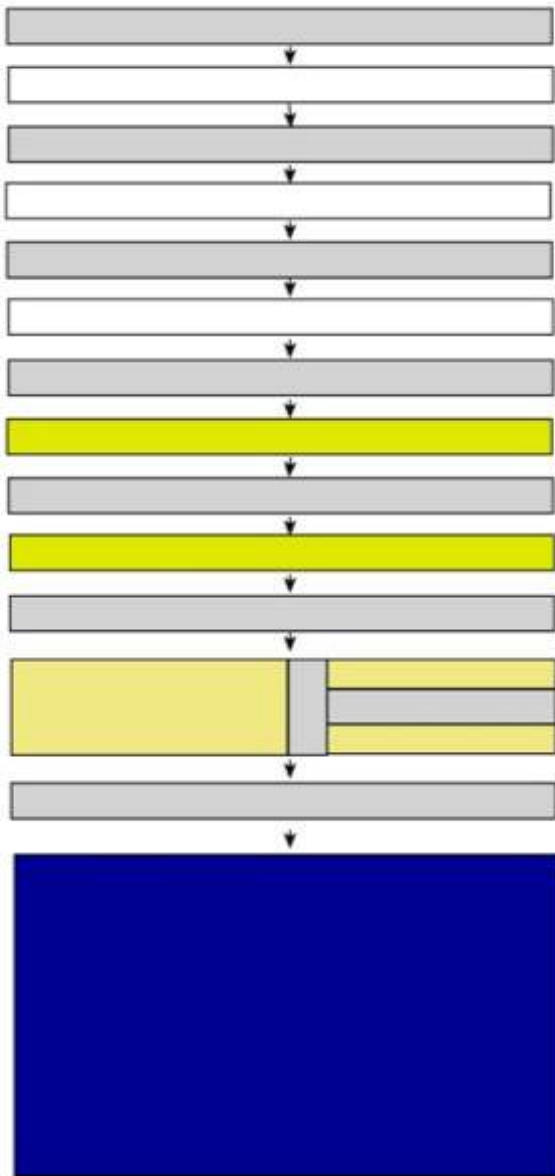


Figure 4

5. Place step 2 block to the left of step 4 block, and sew together (**Figure 5**). Press seams. This completes the mountain block assembly.

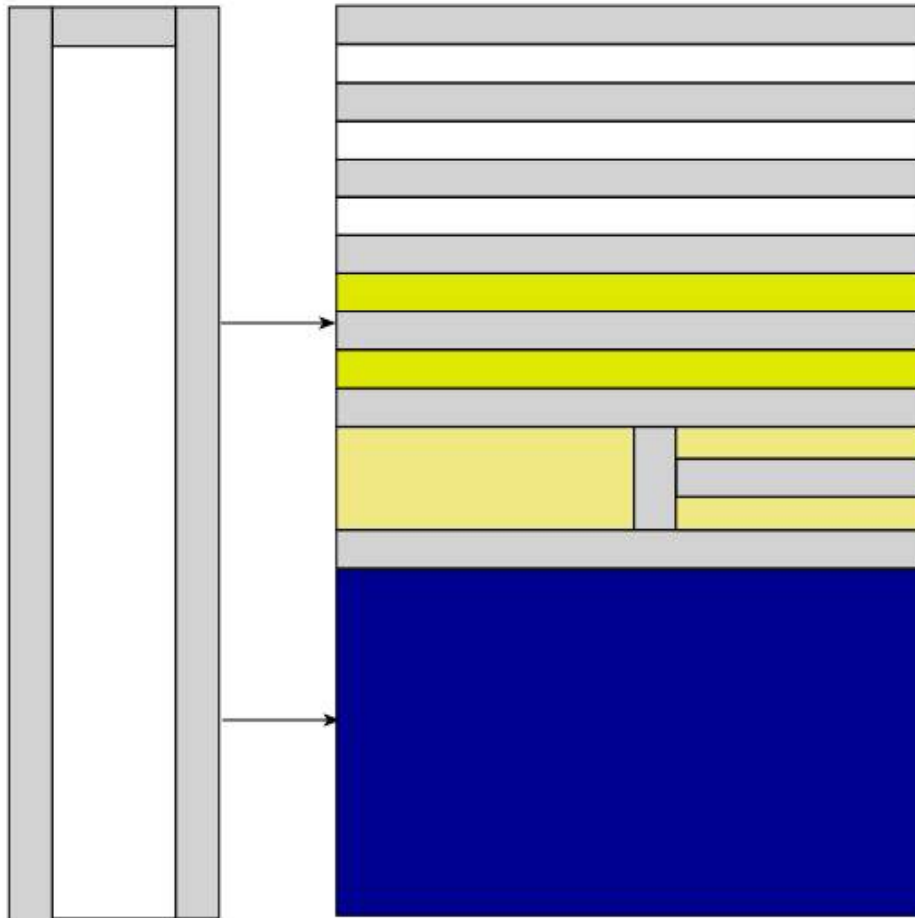


Figure 5

## Cutting Mountain Block – Creating the Angle

The angle of the mountain is not a standard quilting ruler angle (ie. 30, 45 or 60 degrees). Cutting the mountain block using key markers to form the bottom of the block, will create the correct angle.

6. In figure 6, this shows the line that becomes the bottom of the quilt top (60" in length).
  - a. Marker 1, of this line (on the left) is at the bottom inner point of the first grey stripe.
  - b. Marker 2 (on the right of **Figure 6**) is at the join of inner bottom point of the 1st Wasabi stripe and the top of the middle grey stripe.
  - c. Place a ruler lining up these two points and cut (this is represent by the red line).

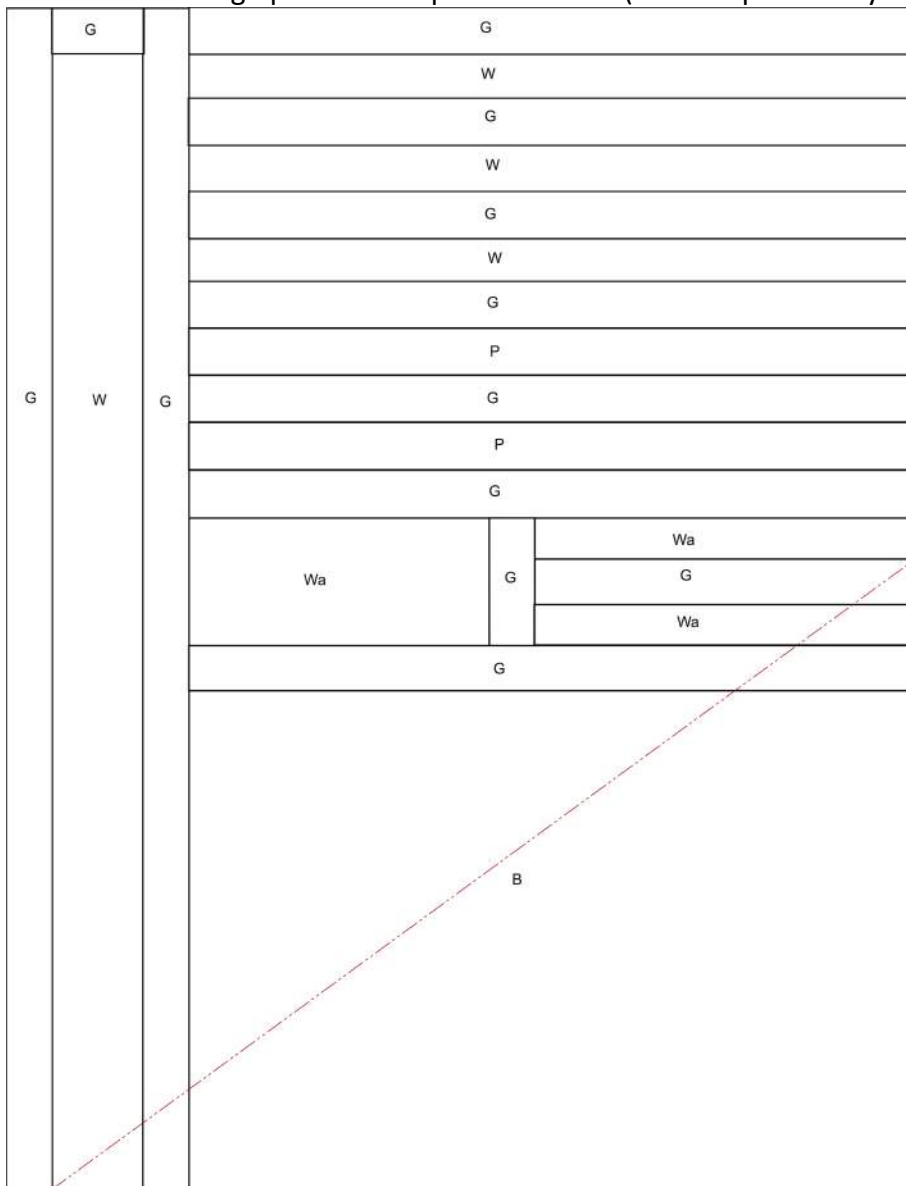


Figure 6



**NOTE:** You may want to use more than one ruler and cutting mat.

**NOTE:** You can use the cut-offs for a scrappy back, so there is no waste of fabric.

- The last step, to finish the mountain, is to square each of the sides of the block. In **Figure 7**, the blue lines indicate the cuts to square up the sides of the mountain block.

**NOTE:** Use your ruler base to square up the edges (just like you would to square up your quilt after quilting).

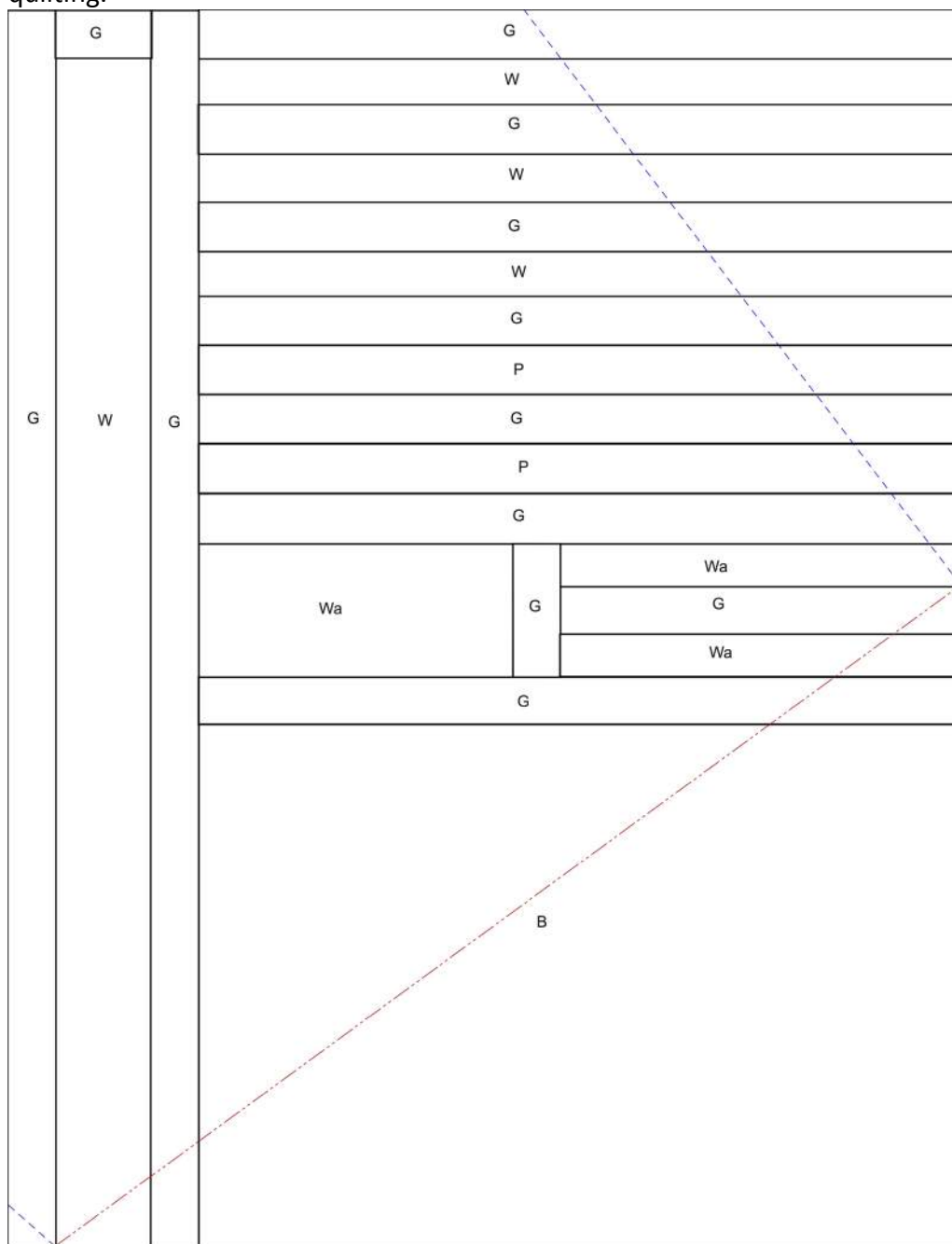


Figure 7

## Finishing the Quilt Top

- Place the large rectangle (60 x 39") Fabric F face up, under the long edge of the mountain block (this is also face up) as in **Figure 8**. Line up the edges of this rectangle with the left side of the mountain (corner to corner – this will give you some extra fabric at the top to work with). The right edge should be in line or over the mountain peak.
- Using a ruler and rotary cutter cut along the outer edge of the mountain block, to get the correct angle in Fabric F.

**NOTE:** Keep the cut-off!!

- Once cut, place Fabric on top of the mountain block, right sides together. Align the left side corners (taking into account the angle + the  $\frac{1}{4}$  " seam allowance). Continue to align the pieces along the long mountain edge and pin.
- Stitch pieces together and press seams.

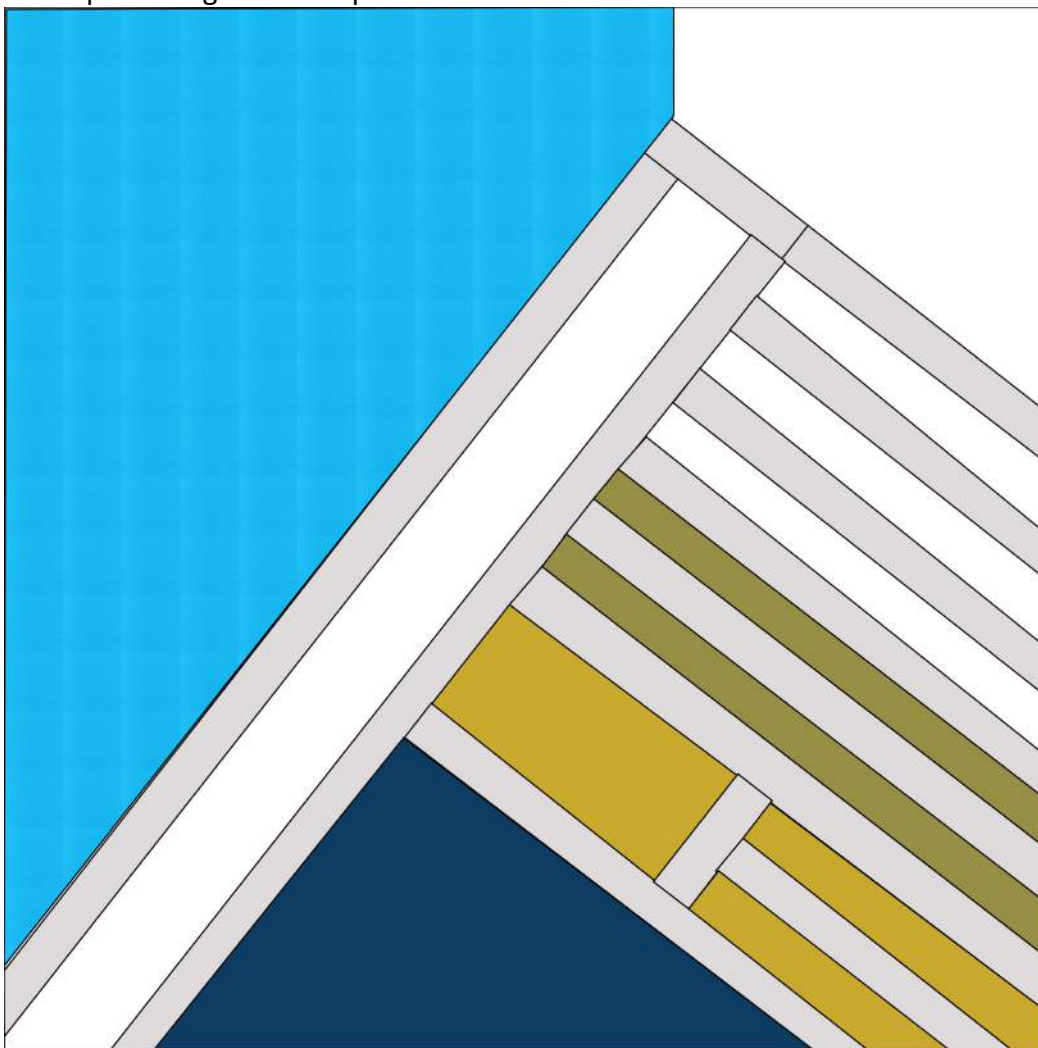


Figure 8

12. Trim the Fabric F piece you just pressed, using the short side of the mountain as a guide.
13. Now, use the cut-off from step 2, and line it up along the short side of the mountain, right sides together. Pin the edges to hold in place.  
**NOTE:** Make sure you have enough coverage on the right side keeping in mind the sea allowance.
14. Sew the pieces together and press (**Figure 9**).
15. Square up the top 60 x 60". The top is now complete

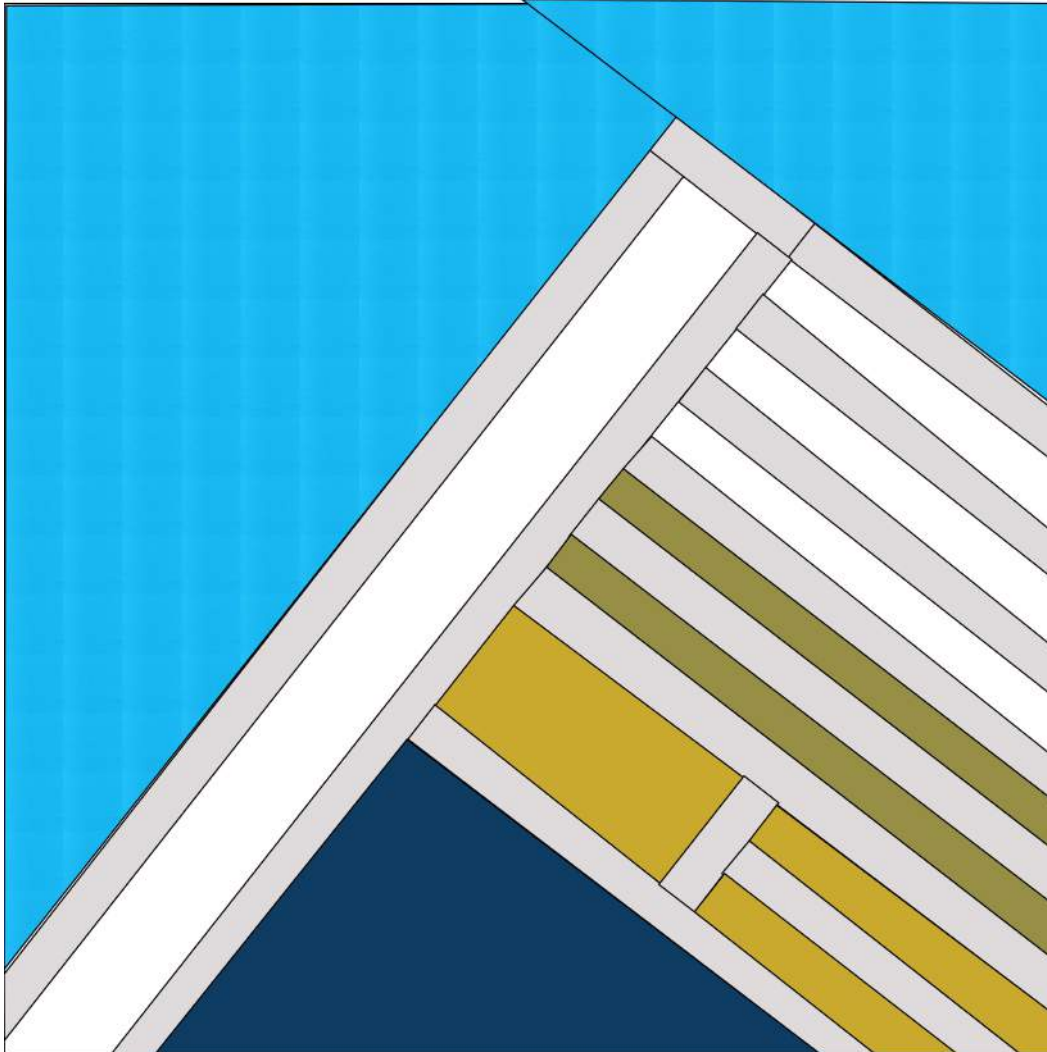


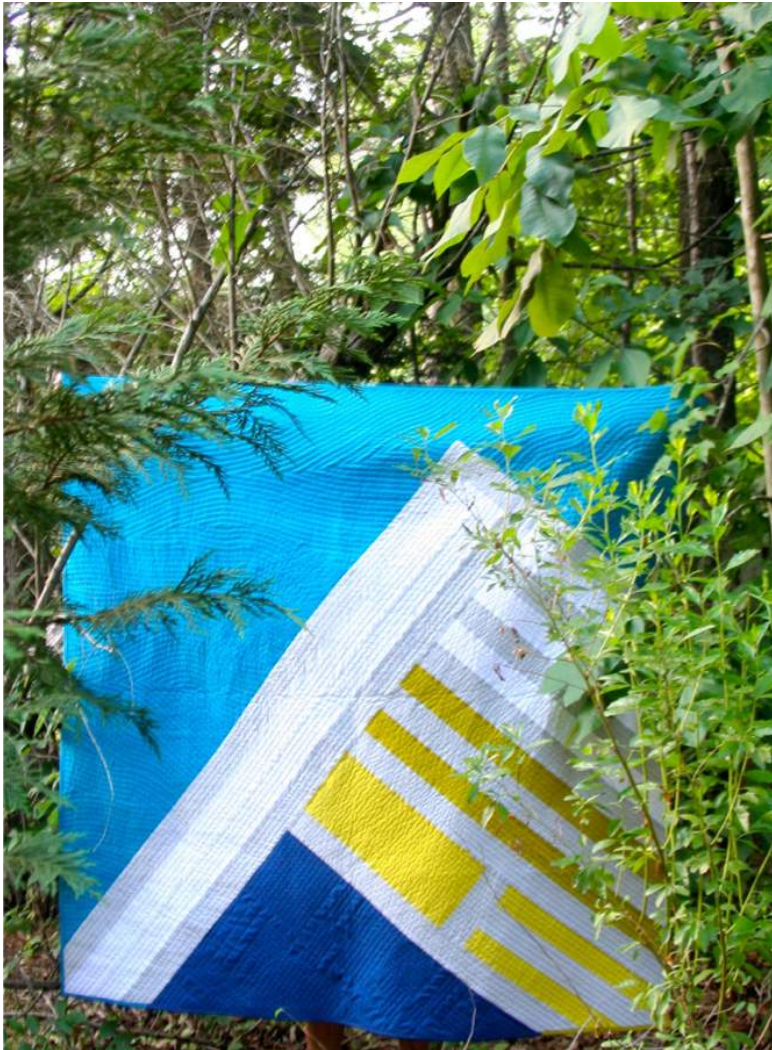
Figure 9

## Quilt Assembly

16. Make a quilt sandwich and baste using your preferred method. Quilt your sandwich using either a walking foot or FMQ foot with a design of your choice (the next section shows the options I chose to add movement in the quilt).
17. Trim off any excess backing and then square up the quilt edges, if necessary.
18. Make your binding in your preferred method. I use seven (7) 2-¼ inch strips that I join on the diagonal.

**NOTE:** if you want to bind with color blocks, as in the picture, Debbie @ A Quilters Table has an excellent tutorial (<http://aquilterstable.blogspot.com/2012/06/about-that-binding.html>).

Attach your binding with your preferred method. Your quilt is now finished!!



## Quilting Possibilities

1. There are several options to consider for quilting and accentuating the negative space. A couple of options I used in this quilt are ultra wavy lines (tutorial can be found at <http://betteroffthread.com/2013/03/06/ultra-wavy-quilting-tutorial/>) and
2. Irregular straight-line quilting inspired by Carolyn Friedlander quilting in Savor each stitch (Book).



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