

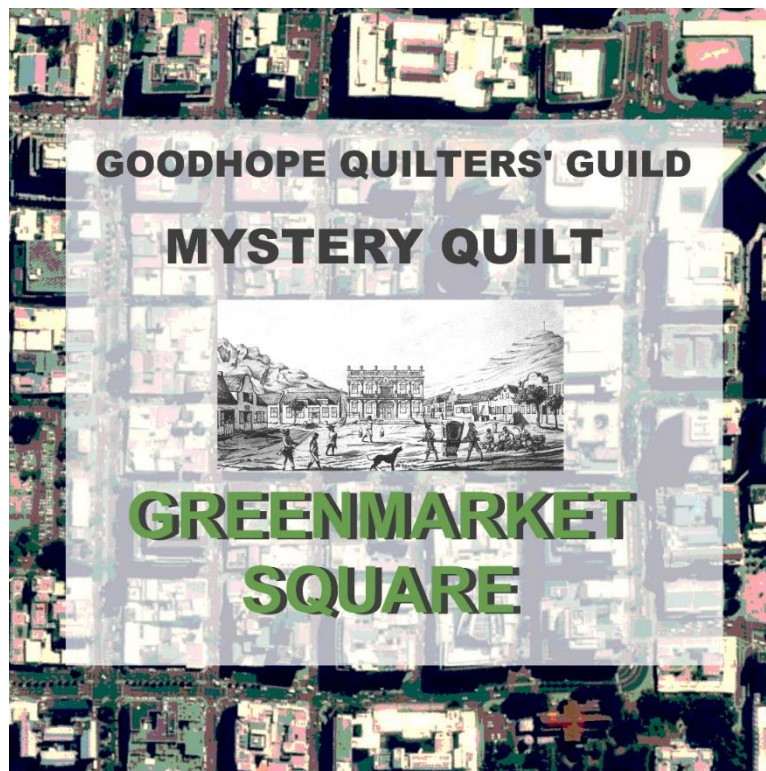


Good Hope Quilters' Guild - 2022 Mystery Quilt

www.goodhopequiltersguild.org.za

Greenmarket Square

by Diana Vandeyar



Welcome to the 2022 GHQG Mystery Quilt! I am so excited to be hosting this years' challenge. Instructions will be posted on the GHQG website every Friday for 12 weeks, starting 3 January.

This years' mystery quilt is called "Greenmarket Square" after the historical square, built in 1696, in the centre of old Cape Town.

Following its establishment as a market, the square became the administrative and social centre of the city. Eventually, simple thatch-roofed dwellings gave way to imposing and elegant buildings. The first of the new buildings was the Burger Watch House and Council Chamber (Old Town House), whose history is inextricably interwoven with Greenmarket Square.

South Africa's oldest tobacconist, Sturks Tobacco (opened in August 1793), was located on the square until the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting tobacco sales ban resulted in its closure in June 2020.

This mystery quilt is very versatile; you can make it with scraps (who doesn't love a scrap quilt, and it's a great way to use up small pieces of fabric), a curated fabric bundle, or as a two-fabric quilt. The blocks are simple, but we will not be compromising on design impact.

If you don't want to make a big quilt (80" x 80"), you can stop making the blocks at two strategic points, week 5 (for a 48" x 48" baby, lap or wall quilt) or week 7 (for a 64" x 64" throw quilt). All the quilts start out the same, but every week the blocks are different. So, if you stop at week 5 or 7, you will not be making certain blocks which will result in different quilts... but that's the fun, right? However, you will have to wait until week 12 to get the final layout, LOL.

No matter what your style of quilting, traditional (reproduction prints, 30's or 50's prints, florals), contemporary (Kaffe Fassett brights, Shweshwe, batiks, hand-dyes, African wax prints), or modern (solids, graphic prints), this quilt will look awesome!


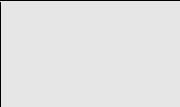
QUILT SIZE: 80" x 80"

BLOCK SIZE: 8" x 8" finished

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS:

You can use scraps, a curated fabric pull (equal amounts of dark and light fabric) or yardage. Fabric requirements assume at least 42" useable width of fabric (WOF).

I think most quilters will be using a mix of yardage and smaller pieces of fabric, so I will not be providing detailed cutting instructions for maximizing the yardage.

		Full Quilt 80" x 80"	Throw Quilt 64" x 64" (Week 7)	Baby/Wall Quilt 48" x 48" (Week 5)
Dark		3¾ yards	2½ yards	1½ yards
Light		3¾ yards	2½ yards	1½ yards

I will be using a mix of solid fabrics for my quilt, greens and greys for the darks, pale green and grey for the lights, plus some odd scraps that I have in my stash, resulting in a scrappy solid quilt.



PREPARATION AND CUTTING

If using scraps, separate your fabric into darks and lights. Each block is designed to be made with two fabrics, and each group of blocks will have a different fabric combination resulting in a scrappy look.

Press your fabric before cutting.

When cutting your fabric place the ruler line on the fabric, not off the fabric's edge - it may result in incorrect sizing.

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Use a ¼" presser foot with a guide (if you have one) for sewing regular seams. Use a ¼" presser foot (without a guide) for sewing Foundation Paper Pieced blocks. Utilize the "needle down" function if you have it.

I think pressing is an important part of quilting. I press my units and blocks frequently. Always when "setting the stitches" (press the sewn line of stitching, so that the stitches settle into the fabric) and then pressing again from the front. Good pressing also helps to reduce flipped seams.

There are many patchwork techniques and construction methods; I will be showing you how I make the units and blocks.

I will be pressing my seams open, so there will be little additional information on seam direction or nestling seams.

SEWING TIPS

1. If your blocks are not coming out the right size, i.e., smaller than 8½ x 8½", try moving the sewing machine needle one notch to the right for a scant ¼" seam allowance.
2. I do not backstitch at the beginning and end of a seam; I think it creates extra bulk and distorts the edge. I rather sew a few stitches in air, before starting to stitch onto the fabric and after I have finished the seam. This creates a twist of stitches that keeps your seam end from opening. When chain-piecing, allow some thread between the blocks so there is enough at the end and start of the next seam when cutting the units apart. I trim these threads after I have crossed the seam when joining units or blocks together.



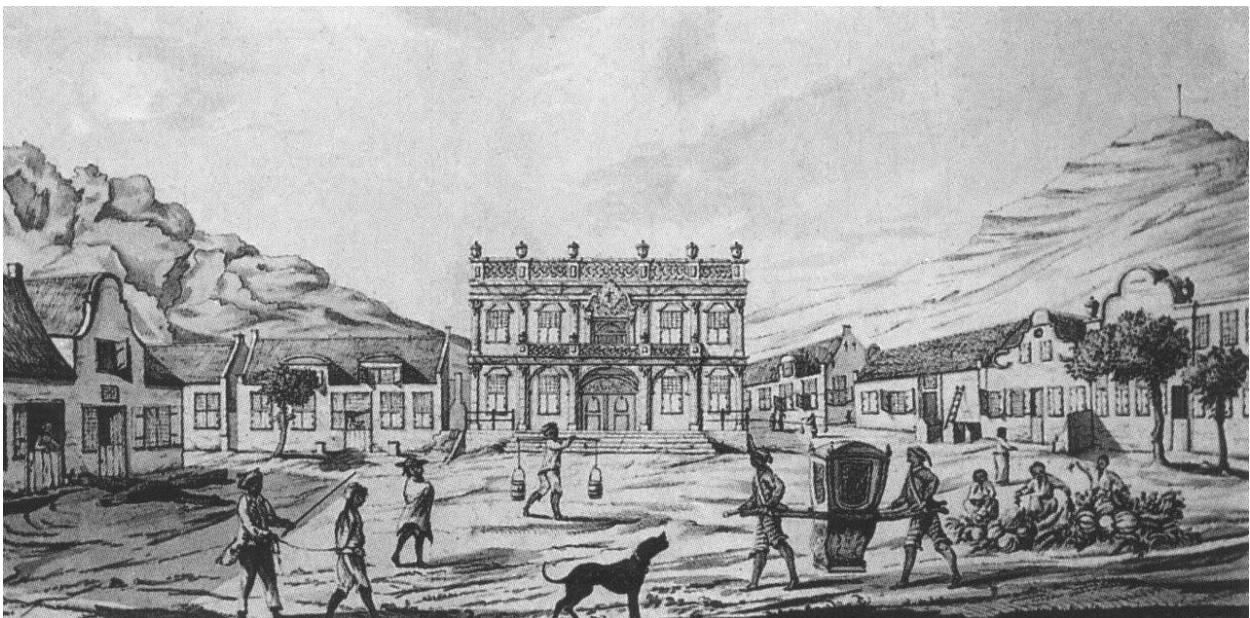
3. If the end of your seam strays when sewing, hold your index finger close to the presser foot for the last ½" or so of the seam. Holding the fabric helps guide the last bit of fabric and feeds it straight into the presser foot.
4. When sewing units with a bulky starting end, rather than pushing the fabric under the presser foot, raise the presser foot and place it on the material before you start sewing. You have more control for getting a consistent seam and less chance of the fabric layers shifting.
5. In the real quilting world, pieced blocks are sometimes a little short of the correct finished size. When sewing these blocks together, sew with the larger sized block on the bottom. Make sure you pin (at least) the start and end. The sewing machine feed-dogs will ease the fabric so that they fit together.
6. We all strive to get sharp points and matching seams, but please do not stress if some are imperfect. Your quilt will still be gorgeous.

Every machine and quiltmaker is different, so not all practices work for everyone; if you have a technique that works for you, then do it. We are all on our own quilting journey, and it is important to enjoy yourself, learn something with each project and know that you are an essential part of this community.

Take your time and enjoy the process!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, diana@vandeyar.net

Post your progress photos on Facebook and Instagram. Tag the [@ghqg_south_africa](#) and [@dianavandeyar](#) and use the hashtags [#GHQGMysteryQuilt](#) [#greenmarketsquarequilt](#) so everyone can find your awesome work!



Greenmarket Square 1762 with the Old Town House in the background. Johannes Rach (1764).