

The Neighbourhood Block of the Month

52 inches by 54 inches

This Block of the Month shows houses from several neighbourhoods in New Westminster. New Westminster is the first real city on the lower mainland, and some of the houses in the Queen's park area have plaques indicating that the house was built in the late 1800s or early 1900s. We have a one or two of those older houses, but we have some much newer houses. Do you recognize a house built in the era you grew up in? As someone who grew up in a neighbourhood where every house started out identical to its neighbours, walking in areas where each house is different is fascinating to me. Interesting though - once you spot the bones of one house - you can often find several others in the area with just a few minor changes to make it unique.

We are going to give you the bare bones of each house, and we encourage you to go ahead and finish it off any way you like. Use your imagination and the classes and programs from the last few years to add your own personality to each house.

The lattice and binding of the quilt will take no more than 2 metres of fabric. The lattice and borders are cut $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The blocks can be done with different backgrounds, and front yards, or you can use a common fabric for the sky. Each one is finished a bit larger than required, so that once finished the applique or embroider you can trim it to size.

You can do a very formal, realistic set of houses, or you can do a fantasy neighbourhood of wild colours and patterns.

The blocks are a lot simpler than they look, in most cases the roofs are paper pieced, but you can use the paper piece pattern to make templates, or freezer paper patterns. It's all up to you. The rest of the house is usually pieced - with very small pieces in some cases, but the additional trim is up to you. Add trim, embroider it, or leave it plain and let the fabric do the talking. It's all up to you!

With the layout of this quilt - there are 11 houses, plus three small blocks to fill with pictures, applique or embroidery, or just leave empty.

Since these blocks are more complicated than our usual block of the month- we are just going to encourage you to try one for yourself. Don't make two - the guild raffle blocks will be the ones used in the 'Close to Home' BOM quilt.

We hope you let yourself go wild, and have fun with these houses. We hope to see some interesting quilts next year!

