

Bienvenue a' Tahiti ~ Moorea

(Welcome to Tahiti & Moorea)

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Linda and friend

Buckle up with me for an adventure to the French Polynesian Islands of Moorea and Tahiti! This particular excursion was a beautiful 2 week vacation with my husband Bill and our friends.....well, let's just say it started out as a two week vacation and was extended for an extra two days; thank you very much to our airline going bankrupt and leaving it to us to find our own flight home. Thank goodness we flew via Hawaii. Oh...but that's another story! Sometimes fate can play in your favor, as I was about to find out in this beautiful month of May last year.

First, I must begin by telling you that Moorea is a beautiful small island off the big island of Tahiti. It has everything you could want, good food and lush mountains with low clouds that hover near their peaks every morning. This made for gorgeous pictures, flowers everywhere... those that send you into heaven with their tropical aromas. Crimson sunsets that illuminate a colorful pathway on the evening waves of the ocean. And of course all the water sports, fire dances, music, and tranquil relaxation on sandy white beaches.

This vacation offered us the exquisite palette of hot tropical colors that was a welcoming site as we stepped off the boat shuttle from Tahiti to Moorea. Emerald greens and turquoise blue water lapped the shores as the sun kissed our mainland pearly white skin.

I am sure that I am no different than any other appliquéer out there... everywhere we look, we can see appliqué designs hidden in the most obscure places or can find the most obvious designs in front of our noses. Bill and I are avid certified scuba divers and as we



went to register for a dive one day, I could not help notice the beautiful designs on the walls of this dive shop. They were just simple black and white paintings of turtles, dolphins and sharks that could easily be transformed into gorgeous appliquéés and could you imagine what beautiful molas they could be. Some of the Tahitian tattoos looked very much like these drawings too. So before beginning my underwater photography with my new camera, I took the first pictures above water of these designs! Needless to say, underwater was a sensation of indescribable beauty, pink corals, neon purple and electric blue fish and a mindful of inspiration.

Our last few planned days were spent on the Big Island of Tahiti, and with the extra days we were stranded there (what a shame, poor, poor us... grin) I wanted to wander around a bit.



In the lobby of our hotel were two stunning quilts made by native Tahitian quilters. One was meticulously appliquééd with tiny little stitches and proudly hung behind glass in a frame and the other quilt was a flower I fell in love with...we know it as a gardenia tahitensis, there it is called Tiare Tahiti. Every morning I awoke to this exotic aroma, as it was abundant every where we walked. I was so happy to see that someone else thought so highly of this bloom to create a quilt.



Images from the wall of the dive shop.

On my walk one afternoon, I came across a Tahitian quilter. She was like a magnet to me. I could almost feel my body move without taking a single step. My eyes were fixed on her. I think that we as quilters, have a special honing device built into our senses to seek and find anything fabric and quilt related, because my husband could not believe what he saw when he finally found me. Yep, there I was teaching my method to this beautiful lady and she was teaching me her method. Bill knew I was in a bit of my own tropical heaven and he headed for the ocean and I relaxed and chatted with my new friend. I was enjoying myself and soon her friends joined us and we had a little old fashioned quilting bee...outside under a tarp and they had their fabrics hanging as walls to shield the sun.



batting. They would just cut and needreturn. The early evening seemed to approach quickly as the sun set her orange glow into the horizon. It was time to say goodbye. We exchanged addresses, hugged and then some giggling from the girls. I was asked to turn around and when I was allowed to turn back, they all stood there bestowing me with the gorgeous pink and white quilt they had been working on. I had done nothing to deserve such a gift, but was told it was for me to take home and remember them and their beautiful island. I always will.....I have been so honored to receive this quilt with the love and care of these women. That was one of my most favorite days of my vacation, to teach these ladies appliqué methods they had never seen and to be taught their method and above all, patience, kindness and generosity is universal amongst quilters everywhere!

The afternoon circle was nice and simple. Just friends chatting, sewing, and yes singing. No sewing machines or fancy scissors, just 2 fabrics, a colored piece on top of a white piece with a design marked on top and no

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Linda's Gift Quilt

