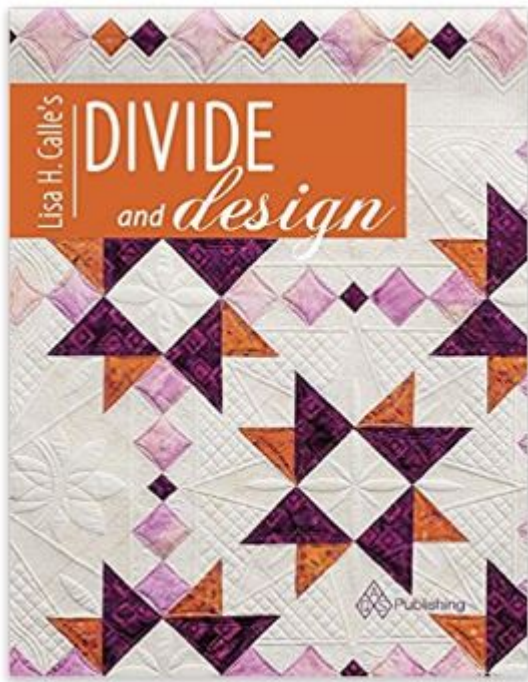


Divide and Design: Planned Machine Quilting Designs



The look of planned quilting designs is amazing. I love how they compliment the quilt and bring out a whole secondary design around the quilt block. In fact, I love it so much I grabbed the [Divide and Design book by Lisa Calle](#).



Her work is stunning (#fangirl), and she breaks down the method to design quilt motifs in [her book](#). I've basically been putting off trying the technique until I had the *perfect* block-based quilt ready to go. Well, it occurred to me that that may never happen. Lisa's book outlines how to choose points to divide your block/space. Starting with that notion, I should be able to try her method on anything, right?



Side story: This teal baby quilt has been in the UFO pile for nine years. Yes, I really just wrote NINE YEARS. I know because I won the fabric from Karen Combs' booth at my first-ever quilt market in Fall of 2008. The fat quarter bundle was sponsored by [Blank Textiles](#). Yes, NINE years ago. Now seems like as good a time as any to get this guy quilted up.

I remembered making the quilt square. (cough cough) I based my divide-points on the fact that I must have 12" blocks in this design. Unfortunately, I didn't follow the directions as closely as I should have. Lisa mentions tracing paper and black & white copies and other things to be really successful with this technique. Well.... I said "Ok, dots. I'm gonna do this right now!" I was really excited to try the technique!

After I loaded the quilt and was about 2/3rds the way finished with the longarm machine quilting, I noticed that my quilt was in fact a rectangle. Dangit. But, this revelation is ok. This is a practice piece, remember? No problemo.

This quilt also did not have defined 12" quilt blocks as I had remembered. Turns out, nine years is a long time to remember details. Good gravy.



See along the top edge and bottom edge in the picture above? There are three 1/2 circle shapes, except the bottom edge's circles are 3" longer and look much more

like [pope hats](#).

Failing memory aside, I think my first go at [Divide and Design](#) was pretty neat. I will 100% be following the directions more closely and taking the time to choose a sensible block-based quilt when I try [Lisa's method](#) again. In the meantime, this little rascal is going to be bound and likely donated to a local children's charity.



****This post contains amazon affiliate links***

****This is not paid content. I wanted to try the book & technique.***