

Quilting in the Hills

September 4 – 6, 2025

It's time to gather for our annual fall retreat! Join us for three days of workshops and SOYO while we learn new techniques, make new friends and enjoy spending time with all our fellow quilters. The retreat is Thursday through Saturday at The Hilton Garden Inn, 815 E Mall Dr, Rapid City, SD.

Meet the Instructor – Karen Bolan!

Karen is a quilter in Santa Rosa, California. Drawn to the layers of design and expression possible in quilting, she loves the learning that comes from experimenting. She endeavors to find efficiencies in process and material use. Her designs are out of the box and integrate a love of geometry, experimentation, interconnection, depth, and texture. Her work has been featured in magazines including Curated Quilts, Modern Quilt Guild Journal, Make Modern, and Modish Quilter, and her quilts have been exhibited at local and international quilt shows including Pacific International Quilt Festival and QuiltCon. You can learn more about Karen's work by visiting her website at www.KarenBolan.com.

“Piece Curves and Play with Transparency”	Thursday, September 4
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Are you intimidated by curves but love precision piecing? Start the Cool as a Cactus quilt in class, featuring pieced curves, a unique border treatment, and color palette that features transparency. Class will begin with an exercise in creating transparency effects, then we work from paper templates to accurately cut and piece large diameter curves. Learn to cut and precisely piece large-diameter curves from templates, assemble a quilt top with pieced borders, and plan a color palette that includes a transparency effect. Students must purchase the digital pattern from Karen's website prior to class. Leave class with at least one block and border complete.

“Design an Original Modern Quilt”	Friday, September 5
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Explore and create your own minimal geometric composition. Turn your original design into a mini quilt by drafting your own paper piecing template. Whether you are new to paper piecing or seasoned, learn tricks for efficient use of fabric. Learn the freezer paper method for easy construction and avoid ripping out paper when you are done. Leave class with a completed design and at least one block complete.

“Design a Quilting Plan”

Saturday Morning, September 6

Do you get stuck asking yourself “How do I quilt this?” In this class, we experience the adventure of developing a quilting plan. In a “choose your own adventure” style, we work through a variety of exercises to learn to analyze, strategize, and implement a unique modern quilting plan. Students may be beginners through advanced quilters. This class focuses on design, and not instruction on how to quilt. Learn to identify constraints, evaluate quilting options, follow a decision-making process, and make a quilting plan that strengthens and aligns with the quilt’s message. Leave class with newfound confidence and a plan to quilt on your own quilts.

All three days of classes - \$195

Full day classes - \$80 per day, half day class - \$50 (includes afternoon sewing)

Please see the supply list on the last page.

Open Sew for Class Attendees Thursday - Saturday

The classroom will be open until 8:00 pm on Thursday and Friday for anyone who took Karen’s Thursday or Friday workshop, and until 5:00 pm on Saturday. The instructor will not be available; this is time for you to work on your class projects. Please specify on the registration form if you would like to attend.

SOYO (sew-on-your-own) is offered on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Classrooms will be open at the time listed on the schedule. Please do not come prior to this time, as you will not be able to get into the room. If you would like to specify your table prior to the retreat so that you can share with someone, please see the committee.

All three days of SOYO - \$125, Per day - \$45

Meals

Meals are \$20 per day

Thursday: Build your own Salad Bar: Spring mix and iceberg lettuce, pulled chicken, julienned steak, grilled tofu, assorted toppings, Italian, Ranch, Balsamic vinaigrette, & French dressings, side of cottage cheese

Friday: Your choice of Apple Goat Cheese Salad (Roma blend lettuce, sliced apples, candied walnuts, crumbled goat cheese, pickled red onions drizzled with sweet balsamic vinegar) or California Crunch Wrap (crispy chicken, bacon, avocado, lettuce, tomato, garlic aioli, herb wrapped with house made chips)

The deadline for adding lunches is August 5, 2025.

The Hilton Garden Inn offers casual dining for breakfast and dinner at the Garden Grill and Bar.

No outside food or beverages are allowed.

Quilting in the Hills Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 4 and Friday, September 5

8:30 am	Registration begins, classroom and SOYO rooms open
9:00 am - noon	Morning class session
Noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch break
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Afternoon class session
4:00 – 8:00 pm	Open Sew for workshop attendees
8:00 pm	Class and SOYO rooms are closed for the day

Saturday, September 6

8:30 am	Classroom and SOYO room is open
9:00 am - noon	Morning class session
Noon – 5:00 pm	Open Sew for workshop attendees
5:30 pm	Class and SOYO rooms are closed

Registration is open to members only until July 1, 2025, and is on a first-come basis. Your membership dues **must be paid prior to July 1** or you will be removed from the class.

RETREAT REFUND POLICY

Cancellations before July 31, 2025, will receive a 25% refund on class or SOYO fee. The registration fee is non-refundable. There are no refunds after July 31, 2025.

Registration deadline is Tuesday, August 5, 2025

SOYO Winter Retreat
January 12– 15, 2026
Hilton Garden Inn, Rapid City, SD

Black Hills Quilt Show
June 4 – 6, 2026
The Monument, Rapid City, SD

Please visit our website at www.bhquilters.org for more information!

Supply List for Karen Bolan Classes

“Piece Curves and Play with Transparency”

Cool as a Cactus digital quilt pattern (purchase from Karen’s website prior to class)

Fabric yardage as listed in the pattern for the quilt size of your choice.

Rotary cutter

6” x 24” quilting ruler, 6” or smaller square quilting ruler

(optional) 16-1/2” square quilting ruler

Pins and any favorite notions

Sewing machine in good working order

Thread for piecing

Class Prep: Press all your fabric. Cut the width-of-fabric strips according to the pattern, but do not subcut into smaller rectangles. We’ll do that in class.

Full size templates will be handed out in class.

*Karen has a demonstration video “How to create a transparency effect with four colors” to help you choose fabric colors for this class. Please watch it at karenbolan.com/supply-lists.

“Design an Original Modern Quilt”

Blank unlined paper (at least 10 sheets)

Pen or pencil

Colored pens or pencils (optional, but nice to have about 4 colors)

12” ruler, 6” x 24” quilting ruler

Freezer paper (specifically for quilters or on a roll)

Pins and any favorite notions

Sewing machine in good working order

Thread for piecing

Approximately 4 fat quarters of fabric (As you design your own quilt block, fabric requirements may vary.)

Class Prep: Press all your fabric.

“Design a Quilting Plan”

Quilt top or picture of quilt top for discussion. (We will not be quilting this top in class.)

Pen or pencil

Irons and cutting stations will be provided.