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Having just read Mrs A Williams article in the September issue, I thought I would write to let you know of another lady's pleasure gained from the Swiss transport system.

With careful planning, we can usually manage to find journeys or walks that satisfy the train spotter, and the keen patchworker, as most large stations have shops near them with either sewing or craft departments such as Manor, Globus, EPA, Coop, Migros, or specialist shops such as Bernina, Elna etc. Also, there are also some wonderful fabric shops in the larger towns, which have special Swiss materials plus American imports.

Where there are no shops, there are still endless ideas to use in design, the most obvious being the view from mountain tops of patchwork fields laid out with Swiss precision, combination of colours in gardens and window boxes. Look at the displays of articles outside shops, tee shirts, plastic boxes, etc. Cafe floors are often tiled with lovely patterns, in autumn the fallen leaves all clean and bright, snow on trees in winter, log piles etc For those who like embroidery, doll making and crafts, the inspiration is endless, from complete packs ready to work or, the chance to buy unusual bits and pieces to just a simple design or motif spotted on travels. I have even managed to go on a free 1 hour course run by Bernina to show you how to make Easter crafts, from place mats to large stuffed hens. Whilst I was doing this (and watching carefully as I couldn't understand a word!) my husband was happily making sure that the Swiss railways were running to time, and photographing the exciting happenings, like a big red engine or a big blue one, or green carriages.

I am very lucky, we both love Switzerland and all the transport, so whatever the weather or time of year we can both enjoy ourselves, together or separately, from sailing on the lakes, walking, train journeys, shopping for model trains or patchwork or just simply relaxing in a beautiful place, there is nothing to beat Switzerland.



A very appropriate subject for an SRS member's quilt.

Photo. Judith Curwen