

Making the Dragon: Pattern Making Techniques - 2

The textile on the right side of the display case is a dancer's robe. A priest would wear it to perform a 'cham' dance for a Tibetan Buddhist ceremony. The style is distinct, with full triangular sleeves and a side-pleated skirt. The dancer would clearly display the features of the brilliant gown as he moved during ceremonial performances.

This textile utilizes two different production techniques from the Ming and Qing dynasties. The body features a dragon depicted in brocade and the sleeves are made of red-silk tapestry with gold brocade cuffs. The skirt is made of tapestry weave with a similar dragon motif to the top. Click on the two images details of the top and the skirt: can you see the difference between the brocade and tapestry production methods?