



Man's Waistcoat, China for the Western market, c. 1740, silk plain weave (faille) with silk embroidery, center-back length: 32 3/4 in. (83.19 cm), purchased with funds provided by Suzanne A. Saperstein and Michael and Ellen Michelson, with additional funding from the Costume Council, the Edgerton Foundation, Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer, Maureen H. Shapiro, Grace Tsao, and Lenore and Richard Wayne, M.2007.211.811, photo © 2010 Museum Associates/LACMA

This man's handsewn sleeved waistcoat was created in China for export to the Western market. The gentle curve of the center-front opening was achieved with a long, slightly shaped, horizontal dart at each side of the waist. These darts, hidden by the pocket flaps, also create a curved hemline ending dramatically at each side-seam vent.

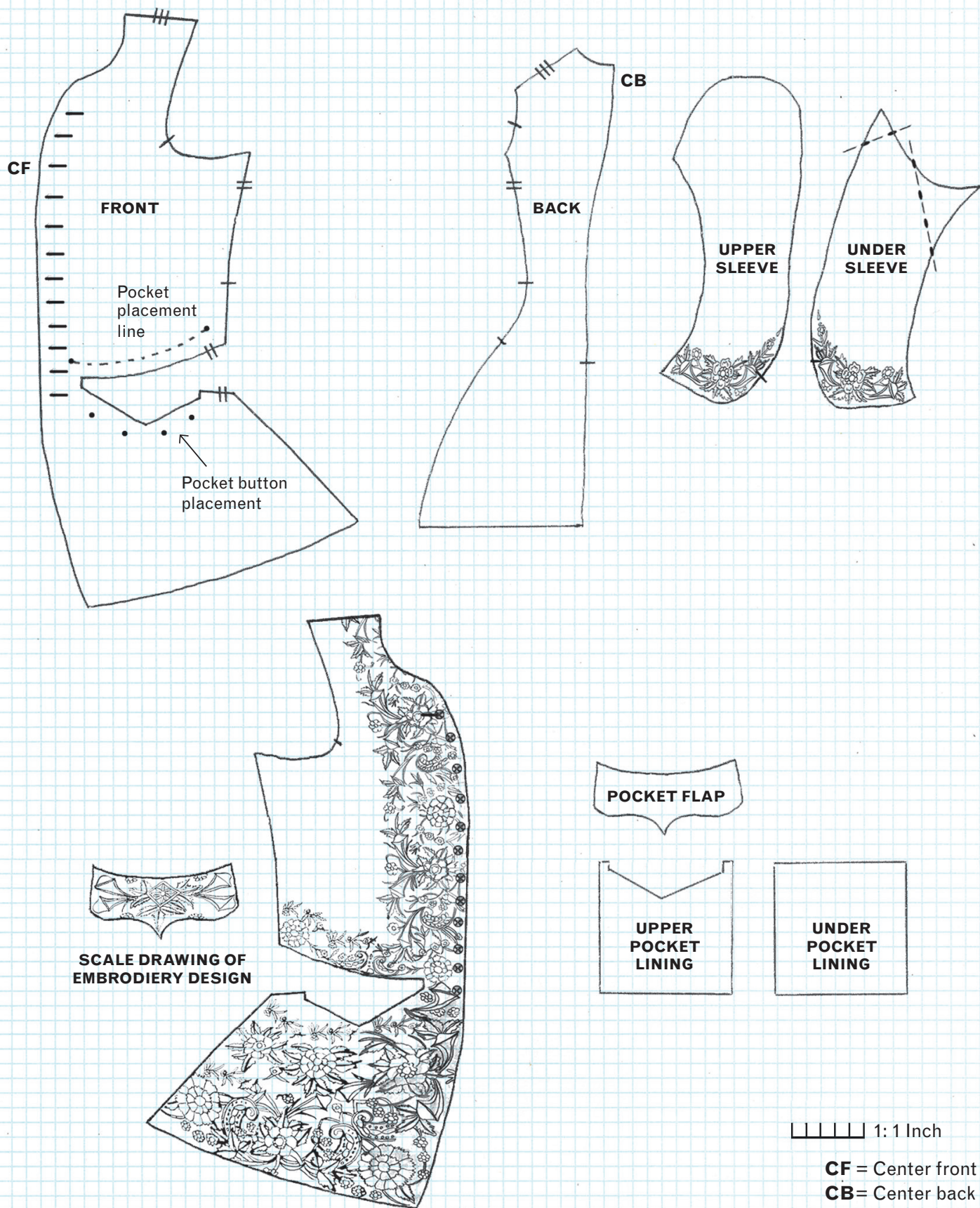
The silk faille was skillfully embroidered by Chinese artisans prior to export. The use of costly fabric to construct this waistcoat—including areas of the garment typically covered by the coat—attests to the wealth of the wearer.



NOTES:

1. Fabric grain follows vertical lines of graph paper.
2. Pattern pieces are drawn without seam allowance.
3. The waistcoat is back-stitched; lining and pocket flaps are whip-stitched.
4. Center-front opening closure of twelve 1/2-inch-diameter thread-covered buttons.
5. Four 1/2-inch-diameter thread-covered non-functional buttons are located below each pocket opening. Finished pocket flaps conceal most of the buttons.
6. Side seams terminate at pocket.
7. Each sleeve opening has a curved vent that extends to the notch point.
8. Center-back vent is open below the notch point.
9. Center-front edges and skirts are stiffened with an interlining.
10. The waistcoat's upper body (above the waist seam) and pockets are lined with linen plain weave; skirts (below the waist seam), sleeves, and pocket flaps are lined with silk plain weave.

Man's Waistcoat



1:1 Inch

CF = Center front

CB = Center back

----- = Pieced fabric