

Protective-Mantle-Project - Newsletter 2 - Spring 2021

Dear participants in the protective-mantle project, to you and to those of you following the project with interest and support,

I send you, with these two photos from January, my warmest greetings.

These pictures will tell you that the Protective-Mantle-Project accompanies me through the seasons - and as I gather from some of the letters: the same is true for some of you, too.

Playfully, the theme of handprints is found in the snow.



Oh yes, spring may come - and exactly one year ago, the press reported on the Protective Mantle project for the first time. This teaches me - among other things: everything grows and unfolds organically, "plant-like" - in its very own rhythm. An African proverb reminds us:

"The grass does not grow faster if you pull on it."

I am very happy to tell you a little of what has grown since the last newsletter in November:

Before the 180-odd pieces of protective coat could be taken to the seamstress, all of them had to be photographed, often requiring individual camera settings for the white pieces of fabric. This was the only way to ensure that I can continue to assign the protective jacket parts to your name. Then everything was entered into the database; it meant working in a very disciplined way - and I confess that this was not always only pleasurable.

Perhaps this shows - as with so many projects of the heart - that other qualities must be added to the "initial spark".

Protective-Mantle-Project - Newsletter 2 - Spring 2021



All parts of the protective mantle passed through the expert and attentive hands of seamstress Edeltraud Bernhardt / Lörrach.

They were hemmed with the overlock machine, all thin fabrics were lined (*) and (as far as possible) brought to a uniform size.

(*) A big thank you for the generous donation of fabric from Mrs. R.-S.

It is also a great pleasure to show you a photo which the Company FAM West / Naturzelte / Bavaria, has kindly made available to me:

It shows one of the seamstresses working on the Cover for the Protective-Mantle – and yes, as you can see: there is a lot of fabric!



Protective-Mantle-Project - Newsletter 2 - Spring 2021

While the seamstress was hemming the Protective-Mantle-Pieces , the wires to the company FAM West / Naturzelte / Bavaria were running hot.

Emails and sketches went back and forth. In my search for an experienced tent builder who would not shy away from customised designs, at last I chose this company. Their list of references reads long - but the decisive factor was the discovery of a very old tent model on the homepage:

This tent carries a wide crossbar in the upper area - and met my idea of the basic shape of the Protective-Mantle-tent.

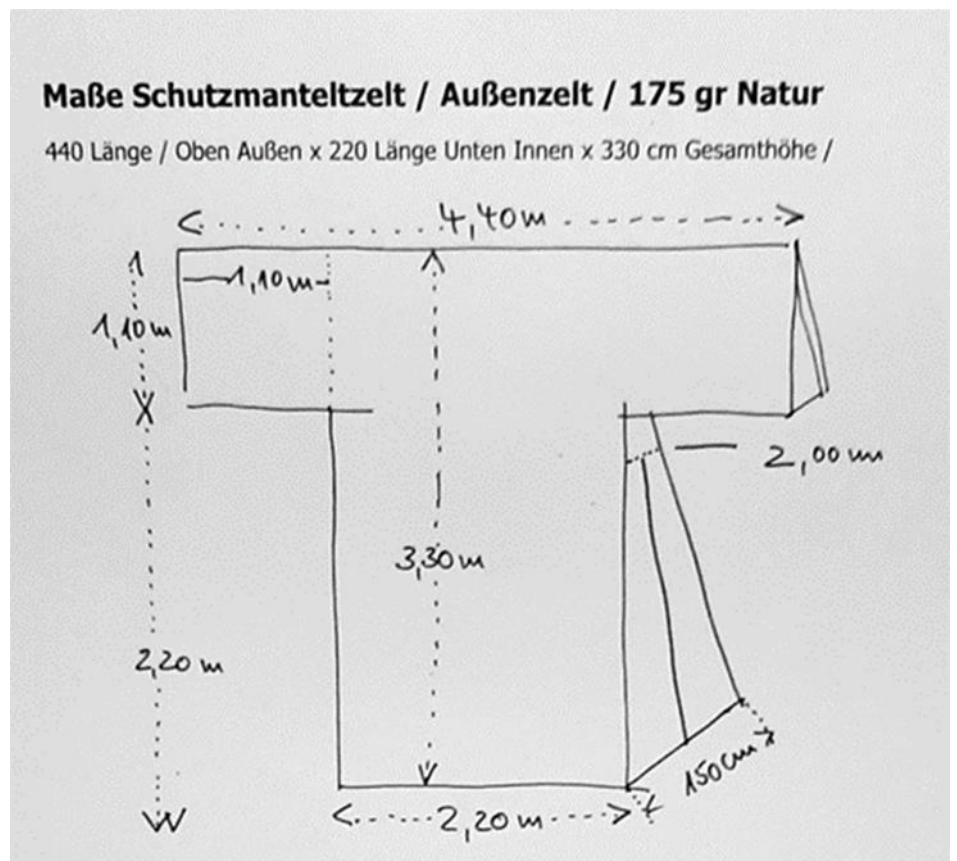
FAM WEST writes: "The Geteld tent ...is a tent shape that can be found on the oldest available tent pictures. It is the "Utrecht Psalter - 9th century" with its copy of the "Eadwin Psalter - 12th century"."



Pictures from the Homepage / FAM WEST Naturzelte

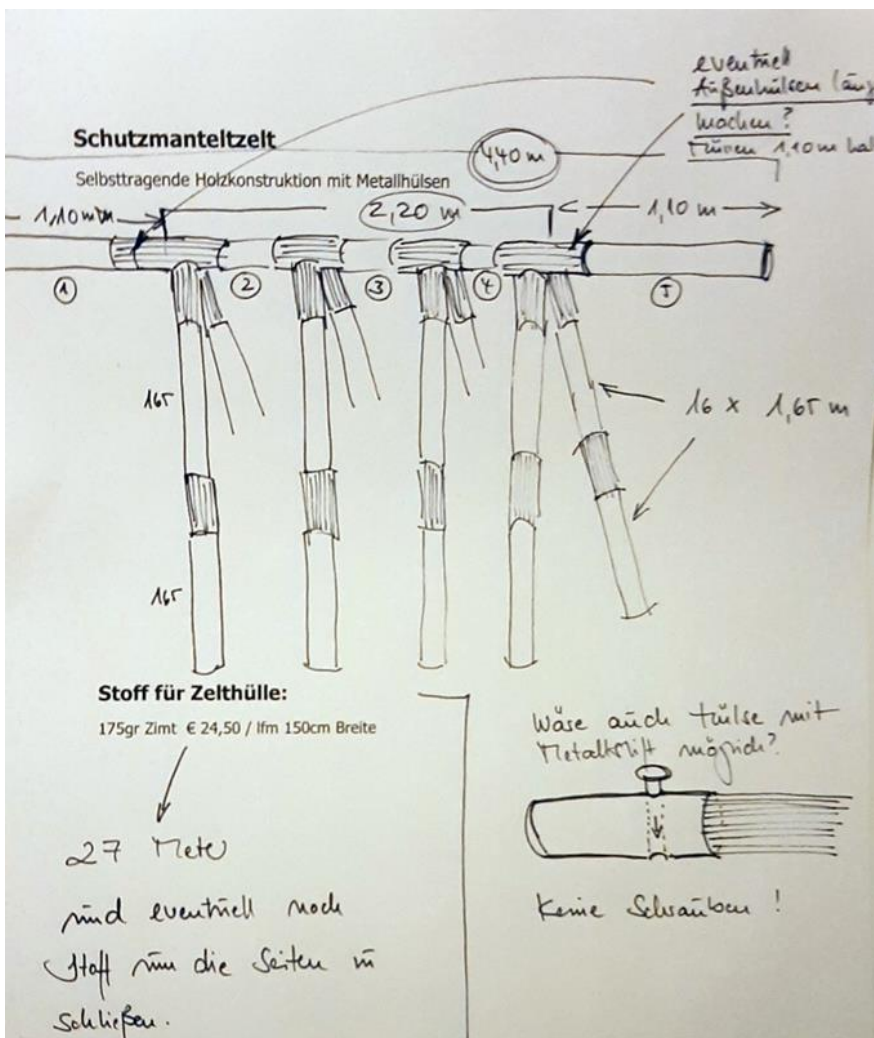
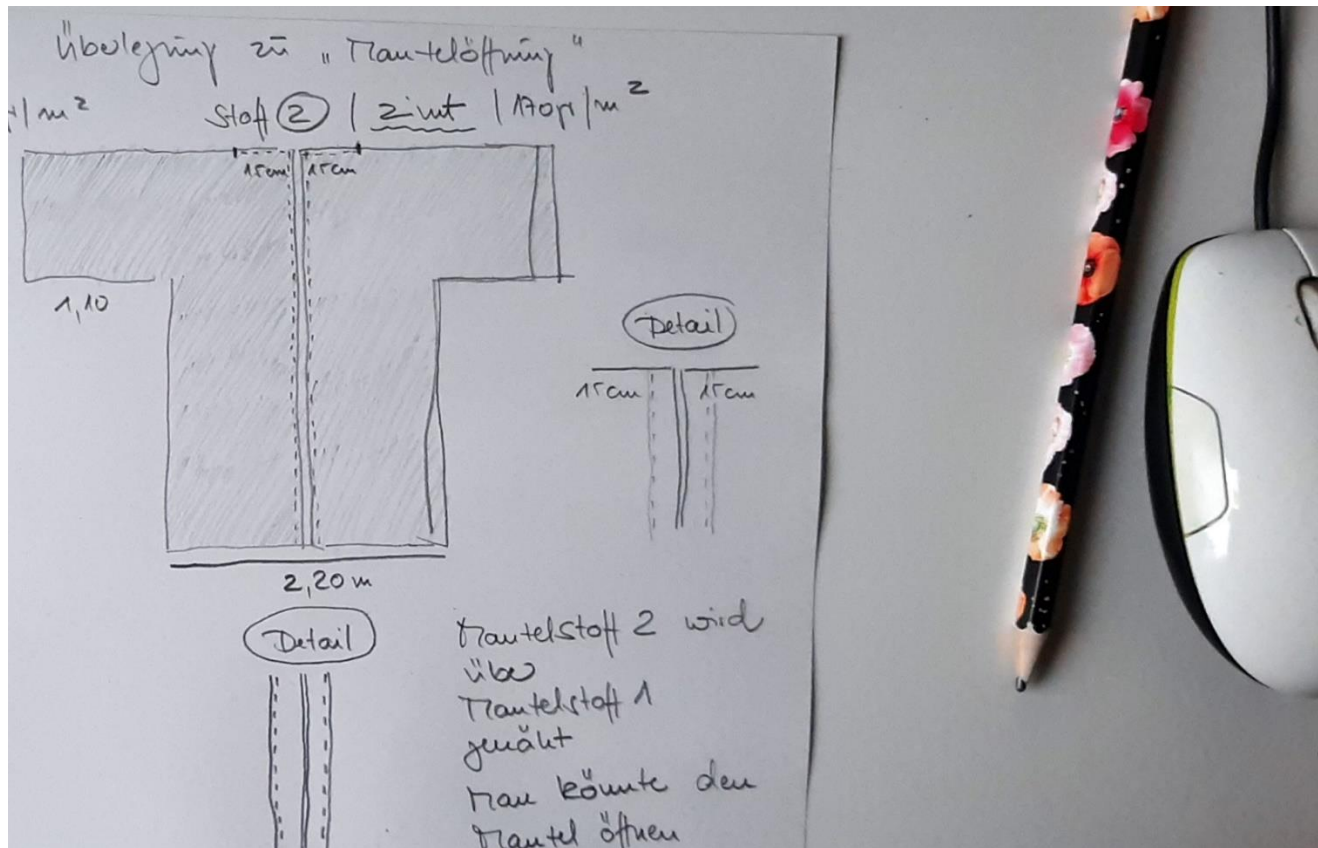
In order to move from the idea of a shelter tent to a concrete realisation, it was inevitable that a model and exact measurements for the tent were needed.

In my studio I stretched the inner tent model with cords and marvelled at how filled out the space became. I calculated the height of the tent on the outside wall of the house, using the scale of already made mantles.



Protective-Mantle-Project - Newsletter 2 - Spring 2021

Some of the various sketches for the tent construction of the Protective-Mantle-Tent:



The inner poles of the shelter tent must be:
stable
freely erectable in various spaces
easily transportable

Welded metal parts take up the individual pieces of wood

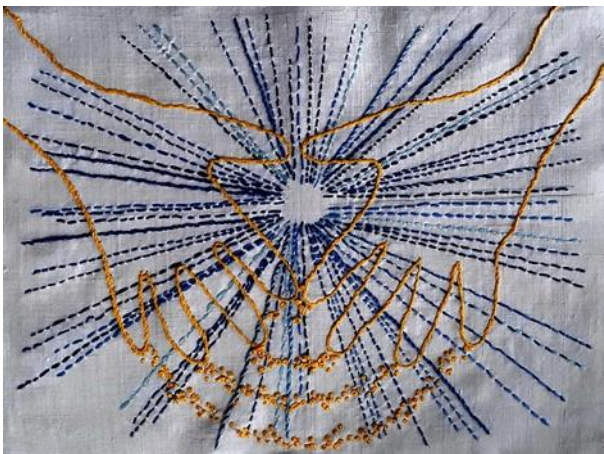
Protective-Mantle-Project - Newsletter 2 - Spring 2021



Impressions of the work on the poles of the shelter tent; the individual parts are welded by the men, the wooden parts cut to size and manufactured according to plan.

Photos: FAM WEST / Nature Tents / Bavaria

All kinds of details had to be taken into account: the stability and thickness of the tent fabric had to be determined, and for this, all the protective mantle pieces had to be weighed. Now I know: 50 protective Mantle-Pieces weigh approx. 2 kg. The tent is expected to be delivered at the beginning of May; then the actual Protective-Mantle with all its composite parts will be made. First discussions and plans for possible exhibitions in the coming year took place.



First....



...and (for the time being) last Piece of the Protective-Mantle

Perhaps when you look at it, you will realise in what a great and deeply unifying work - especially in these turbulent times; you have been – and are - involved in.

With a grateful heart and best wishes.

Be wrapped in a protective mantle.



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