

## Transportation

Denyse Schmidt Quilts, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, is on the coast of Long Island Sound. We are approximately sixty miles northeast of New York City (one hour and thirty minutes estimated driving time) and are reachable by air, train and automobile. Our studio is in a historic textile mill complex, formerly home to the American Fabrics Company, which manufactured lace fabric, trim and embroideries from 1908 to 1990.

Our address is 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Building Four, Fourth Floor, Bridgeport, CT 06607. Please call the studio (203-335-2719) when you arrive for assistance with the elevator, or take the stairs to the top floor.

### By Air

The two closest major airports to the studio are LaGuardia Airport in New York (one hour and 10 minutes driving time) and Bradley International Airport, north of Hartford, CT (one hour and 15 minutes driving time). Other New York area airports, JFK and Newark, are a bit farther (approximately one hour and thirty minutes driving time). From any of these airport locations, the best way to reach us is to rent a car, and follow our driving directions, also found in this document.

Smaller regional airports are Tweed –New Haven Airport (thirty minutes by car) and Westchester County Airport in White Plains, New York (fifty minutes by car).

Limousine transportation from the Bradley, JFK, LaGuardia and Newark airports is provided by Connecticut Limousine, 1-800-472-LIMO (5466) or 203-878-2222, [www.ctlimo.com](http://www.ctlimo.com), which stops at the Bridgeport terminal. Taxi connections can be made from the terminal to our studio.

### By Train

Metro North, [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info), the commuter rail line, makes hourly trips via the New Haven Line between Grand Central Station in New York (42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Lexington Avenue) and the Bridgeport station (the trip takes approximately one hour and thirty minutes). We are approximately two and a half miles from the station. From the station, the best way to the studio is by taxi. Yellow Cab (below) is located in the station building.

### By Ferry

The Bridgeport and Port Jefferson Steamboat Ferry Company [www.bpjferry.com](http://www.bpjferry.com), 888-443-3779) runs a scenic ferry service (the trip takes approximately one hour and fifteen minutes) between Bridgeport (330 Water Street Dock, Bridgeport, CT 06604) and Port Jefferson (102 West Broadway, Port Jefferson, NY 11777) from May through October. Primarily for pedestrians and bicycles, a limited number of cars are also ferried by prior reservation. The Bridgeport ferry building is located right across the street from the Bridgeport train station. The best way to get to the studio is by taxi. Yellow Cab (below) is located in the train station building.

### Local Taxicab Companies

Yellow Cab, 203-334-2121. Speedy Cab Company, 203-366-4343. Park City Livery, 203-334-2380. Town Taxi, 203-366-8534.

## Driving Directions

Remember to print this map out and bring it with you. Whether you are coming in a cab or using a GPS you will need it to get to our door as we are located in a large complex.

### Traveling I-91 South (from points north)

Take I-91 South to New Haven CT and merge onto I-95 South. Follow directions below.

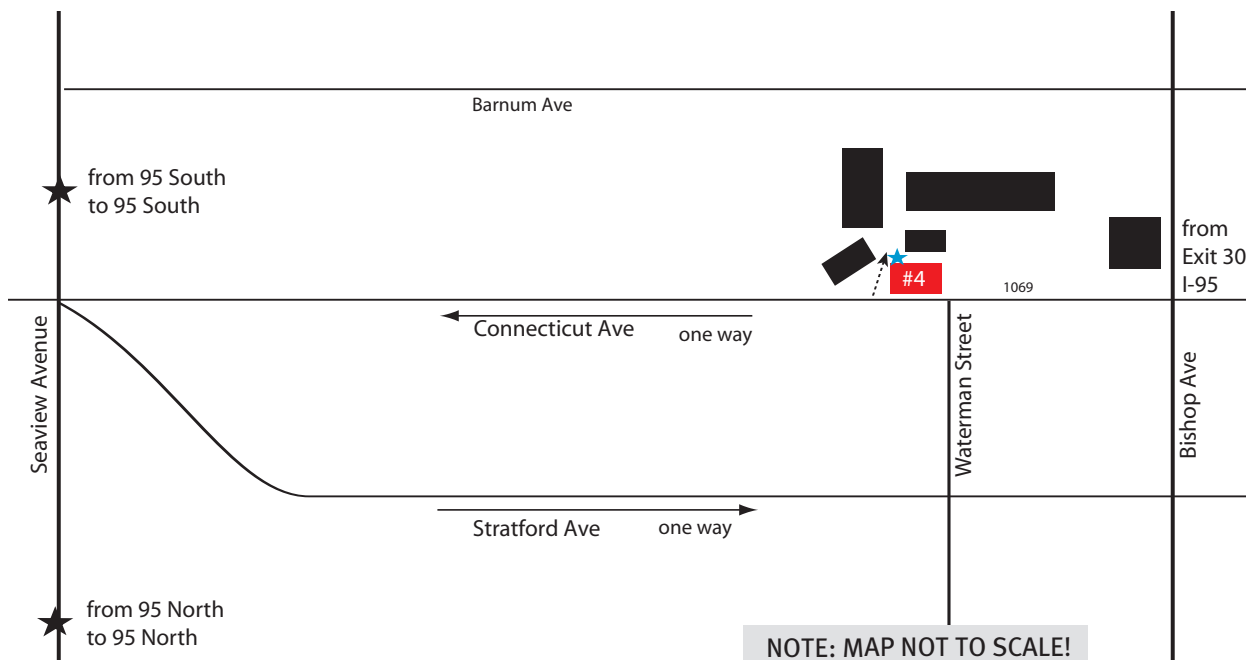
### Traveling I-95 South

Take exit 30/Surf Avenue. Turn right at bottom of ramp onto Surf Avenue. Turn left at next light onto Connecticut Avenue. Turn right into parking for 1069 Connecticut Ave. Follow directions below from \*\*.

### Traveling I-95 North

Take exit 30/Lordship Avenue. Turn left at bottom of ramp onto Lordship. Lordship becomes Hollister. Go straight through stop sign, and right at next light onto Stratford Avenue. Take 3rd left onto Waterman Street. Turn left on Connecticut Avenue and make immediate right into parking for 1069. Follow directions below from \*\*

\*\*Entrance is to the right, a grey door in building 4. Park along tan building, please don't block any doors or driveways. On map, blue star indicates entrance (grey door), stairs and elevator to DSQ. Take stairs to fourth (top) floor, or call 203-335-2719 for assistance with elevator.



## Accommodations

Denyse Schmidt Quilts is located in an industrial neighborhood of Bridgeport. Accordingly, accommodations are scarce in the immediate neighborhood, but many establishments are just a short drive from the studio.

**Bridgeport Holiday Inn and Convention Center** 1070 Main Street, Bridgeport. 203-334-1234. A newly renovated Holiday Inn, with a heated indoor/outdoor pool, high speed internet access in all rooms, and on-site parking, located in the downtown area of Bridgeport. Many restaurants are within walking distance. *Mention DS Quilts to receive a room at a discounted rate.*

**Best Western Black Rock Inn** 100 Kings Highway, Fairfield. 203-659-2200. Located just off of I-95 (exit 24). Pool, on-site parking. Several restaurants are located a short drive away in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport, or in Fairfield.

**Fairfield Inn** 417 Post Road, Fairfield. 203-255-0491, [www.fairfieldinnbymacy.com/](http://www.fairfieldinnbymacy.com/) Located just off exit 22 of I-95. Pool, wireless internet, on-site parking, restaurant on the premises. Recently renovated and right next door to the Circle Diner and several other nearby restaurants.

**Rodeway Inn** 10 Washington Parkway, Stratford. 203-377-6288, [www.rodewayinn.com](http://www.rodewayinn.com). Located directly on the beach in the Lordship section of Stratford, The Rodeway Inn also has a diner-style restaurant, Marnicks, on the premises that features breakfast all day.

**Ramada Inn** 225 Lordship Boulevard, Stratford. 203-375-8866, [www.ramada.com](http://www.ramada.com) This location of the national chain offers an indoor pool and an on-site restaurant. Located conveniently near exit 30 off of I-95.

**Hi-Ho Motel** 4180 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield. 203-259-5264. A 1940's motel located just off exit 44 of the Merritt Parkway. The bonus of staying at the Hi-Ho is the Barcelona Restaurant (203-255-0800, [www.barcelonawinebar.com](http://www.barcelonawinebar.com)), located on the premises. Barcelona has a great tapas menu, great wines, and a retro 1970's Jonathan-Adler style decor. Full, swinging bar and outdoor patio dining.

## Dining

### Bridgeport

**Bloodroot** 85 Ferris Street, in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport. 203-576-9168, [www.bloodroot.com](http://www.bloodroot.com). To quote Zagat, “this venerable feminist enclave is refreshing, as are the superb ethnic vegetarian and vegan dishes”. For over 30 years Bloodroot has served locally grown, organic produce. Located on an out-of-the way cul-de-sac, with eclectic outdoor seating in warm weather, overlooking Long Island Sound.

**Omanel** 1909 Main Street, Bridgeport. 203-335-1676. A family-run Portuguese restaurant serves up a trip to Lisbon in an unassuming setting in downtown Bridgeport. “Must have” dishes, according to Zagat, are the pork and clams or the paella. Be prepared to share, as the portions are generous.

**State Street Bistro** 211 State Street, Bridgeport. 203-540-5705, [www.statestreetbistro.com](http://www.statestreetbistro.com). An update on classic French bistro fare. Located in a historic landmark building featuring a beautiful mahogany and copper bar and a nice relaxed vibe.

**Two Boots** 277 Fairfield Ave. Bridgeport. 203-331-1377, [www.twoboots.com](http://www.twoboots.com). Famous for their cornmeal crusted pizza, Two Boots is an eclectic, full service restaurant serving up unique, family style Cajun-Italian cooking and featuring a wide variety of live music (see Area Attractions).

### Fairfield

**Centro** 1435 Fairfield Boston Post Road (route 1), Fairfield. 203-255-1210. [www.centroristorante.com](http://www.centroristorante.com). Reasonably priced Italian fare, from salads, to pastas and pizzas. Friendly atmosphere, with crayons and paper tablecloths for jotting down that latest design inspiration. In warm weather, tables with umbrellas are set on the terrace overlooking the town gazebo. Lunch and dinner.

**Las Vetas** 1462 Post Rd. Fairfield. 203-259-1958. A cozy, artsy alternative to the coffee chains, Las Vetas offers live music and poetry readings (as well as java). Just steps away is the Community Theatre and the Fairfield Theatre Company (see Local Cultural Attractions). Downtown Bridgeport location opening in 2009.

**Frank Pepe's Pizzeria** 238 Commerce Drive, Fairfield. 203-333-7373, [www.pepespizzeria.com/fairfield](http://www.pepespizzeria.com/fairfield) This latest outpost of the legendary New Haven pizzeria has been cited by Jane and Michael Stern in Gourmet Magazine as “arguably the best pizza in the country”. Noted for their crispy, thin crust, the white clam pizza is the local specialty, topped with briny fresh littleneck clams and LOTS of garlic. Lines can be very long on weekends, but it's worth the wait.

**Health in a Hurry** 1891 Post Road (route 1), Fairfield. 203-254-5777. A quick, organic, vegetarian take-out place with inspired offerings featuring fresh, seasonal vegetables.

**Fin** 222 Post Road, Fairfield. 203-259-5950. A tiny, neighborhood sushi bar with the freshest sushi around (flown in daily). Dine outdoors or indoors at this local favorite.

**Ole Mole** 2074 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield. 203-333-0400. Going a bit beyond the standard Mexican fare of tacos, burritos and enchiladas, Ole Mole offers both vegetarian and meat-based entrees, from tamales to mole poblano. Decorated with Mexican folk art and colorful tiles, this location is small but charming.

**Quattro Pazzi** 1599 Boston Post Road, (route 1), Fairfield. 203-259-7417, [www.quattropazzi.com](http://www.quattropazzi.com) Noted for their large servings of fantastic homemade pasta presented with a lot of eye appeal, this small Italian restaurant is always quite busy. Can't get a table? Try their sister restaurant, Cafe Quattro, next door. The fare is a bit lighter and the atmosphere more casual but the result just as pleasing.

**Saraband** 12 Unquowa Place (just off route 1), Fairfield. 203-259-8084. New American cuisine, with an eclectic menu, a bit on the higher-priced side. The restaurant is cozy, with a charming outdoor terrace. Lunch and dinner.

**Super Duper Weenie** 306 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield. 203-334-0033, [www.superduperweenie.com](http://www.superduperweenie.com) Cited by Jane and Michael Stern in Gourmet Magazine as "one of America's ten best hot dog joints", this unique restaurant is worth the short skip off of exit 24 of I-95. Serving up home-made condiments along with a variety of juicy dogs, they also serve fresh cut fries made on the premises. Another hard to find specialty, Del's frozen lemonade, finishes off the menu. Limited indoor seating, primarily take-out.

## Westport

**Balducci's** 1385 Post Road East (route 1) Westport. 203-254-5200. Formerly the beloved local market Hayday, this location has now become a suburban outpost of the famed New York grocer. Their coffee bar offers a variety of brews and pastries; and their take-out offerings include interesting soups, salads, and wraps.

**Tengda Asian Bistro** 1330 Post Road East, Westport. 203-255-6115, [www.tengdaasianbistro.com](http://www.tengdaasianbistro.com). A lively location with a Pan-Asian menu, excellent sushi, and an edgy industrial décor make this a very popular spot. Lunch and dinner.

**The Dressing Room** 25 Powers Court (on the grounds of the Westport Country Playhouse), Westport. 203-226-1114, [www.dressingroomhomegrown.com](http://www.dressingroomhomegrown.com). This joint venture launched by the late, great Paul Newman and Michael Nischan, both proponents of organic and sustainable food sources, is a popular addition to the local dining scene. The menu features updated American Heritage Cuisine, using the finest locally grown organic and artisanal food products.

## Milford

**Jeffrey's** 501 New Haven Avenue, Milford. 203-878-1910. Overlooking the salt marshes toward Long Island Sound, this Milford favorite offers contemporary continental cuisine. It features a charming outdoor garden patio in season.

## Local Cultural Attractions

### Bridgeport

**Two Boots** 277 Farifield Ave. Bridgeport. 203-331-1377, [www.twoboots.com](http://www.twoboots.com). Come for the funky vibe and the famous pizza (see Dining), stay for the great live music. Check out their website for current band listings.

**The Acoustic Café** 2926 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport. 203-335-3655, [www.acousticcafe.com](http://www.acousticcafe.com) A favorite local club, located in the historic Black Rock section of Bridgeport. An intimate venue features the best of blues, jazz, singer/songwriter, spoken word – alternative music for every taste. Light food, and bar service. Admission charged.

**The Barnum Museum** 820 Main Street, Bridgeport. 203-331-1104, [www.barnum-museum.org](http://www.barnum-museum.org) Bridgeport's most famous personality was P.T. Barnum, and this museum chronicles his life and times, as well as his relationship to the city. A scale model of a five ring circus is always on display, as well as a souvenir piece of Tom Thumb's wedding cake, the Fiji mermaid, and many personal items from the Barnum family. Admission charged.

**Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo** 1875 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport. 203-394-6565, [www.beardsleyzoo.org](http://www.beardsleyzoo.org) This 36-acre zoo features over 300 animals in North and South American outdoor habitats. Special features include a New England petting farm, indoor rainforest habitat, and a seasonal carousel. Admission charged.

**City Lights** 37 Markle Court, Bridgeport. 203-334-7488, [www.citylightsgallery.com](http://www.citylightsgallery.com) This gallery features emerging and established regional artists.

**The Discovery Museum** 4450 Park Avenue, Bridgeport. 203-372-3521, [www.discovery-museum.org](http://www.discovery-museum.org) An interactive museum of science and technology, featuring a planetarium and a Challenger Learning Center. Admission charged.

**Downtown Cabaret Theatre** 263 Golden Hill Street, Bridgeport. 203-576-1636, [www.downtowncabaret.org](http://www.downtowncabaret.org) An intimate musical theatre with cabaret seating at tables. Bring your own picnic dinner and beverages. Recent performances have included Sweet Charity and Hair. Admission charged.

**Playhouse on the Green** 177 State Street, Bridgeport. 203-333-3666, [www.playhouse-onthegreen.org](http://www.playhouse-onthegreen.org) An intimate professional equity theatre in downtown Bridgeport.

### Fairfield

**Community Theatre** 1424 Post Rd. Fairfield. (203) 255-6255, [www.communitytheatre-foundation.org](http://www.communitytheatre-foundation.org) Catch a movie in the old refurbished movie theatre in the center of bustling downtown Fairfield. All movies only \$4!

**Fairfield Theatre Company (FTC)** Off Sanford Street at the Fairfield train station, in Fairfield Center. 203-259-2036, [www.fairfieldtheatre.org](http://www.fairfieldtheatre.org). An intimate performance space, offering a wide range of music, from chamber to blues, jazz and pop. Featuring both national and local performers. Other offerings include indie films and professional theatre. FTC operates some of their shows out of the historic Klein Auditorium in Bridgeport. Admission charged.

**The Quick Center for the Performing Arts** 1073 North Benson Road, on the campus of Fairfield University. 203-254-4010, [www.quickcenter.com](http://www.quickcenter.com) A university-based performing arts center, featuring a year round schedule of nationally touring music, theatre and dance artists, as well as a lecture series, experimental black box theatre, and art gallery (the Walsh Gallery). Admission charged for performances.

### **New Milford**

**Elephant's Trunk** Route 7, New Milford. 508-896-1975, [www.etflea.com](http://www.etflea.com)  
A favorite of Denyse's, this seasonal flea market is a great source for vintage textiles and country flea market treasures. Located in a pasture, about a one hour drive from the studio. Sunday mornings, April - mid-December, from 7 am to 2 pm. Nominal admission.

### **Ridgefield**

**The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum** 258 Main Street, Ridgefield. 203-438-4519, [www.aldrichart.org](http://www.aldrichart.org) Changing exhibits of innovative contemporary painting, sculpture and photography, featuring emerging and mid-career artists. Admission charged.

### **Westport**

**The Westport Country Playhouse** 25 Powers Court (off route 1) Westport. 203-227-4177, [www.westportplayhouse.org](http://www.westportplayhouse.org) A historic summer theatre has undergone a transformation under the guiding hand of Joanne Woodward, and now presents performances year round in a state-of-the-art space with the charm of the original barn intact. New Artistic Director Tazewell Thompson promises a theatrical season to inspire and challenge sophisticated audiences. Admission charged.

**The Westport Arts Center** 51 Riverside Avenue, Westport. 203-222-7070, [www.westportartscenter.org](http://www.westportartscenter.org) Although a community-based arts center, this organization reaches beyond local talent to present exhibitions in the visual arts in their riverside gallery, as well as a performing arts series featuring nationally known folk, chamber and jazz performers at other venues in the area. Gallery admission free; admission charged for performances.

### **Wilton**

**Weir Farm National Historic Site** 735 Nod Hill Road, Wilton. 203-834-1896, [www.nps.gov/wefa/home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wefa/home.htm) Wilton offers the only national park dedicated to an artist. Weir Farm was the home of J. Alden Weir, one of the American Impressionists. The farm provided inspiring subject matter for Weir and many of his friends, including Childre Hassam and John Twachtman. The Burlingame house offers an exhibit of historic photographs and a video presentation of Weir's life and times. Changing exhibits of contemporary artists and tours of two art studios are available. In season, walking tours of the site are offered on Sundays at 11. Picnics are allowed on the grounds. Free admission.

## Beaches

There are many local and state beaches bordering Long Island Sound in our area. Most offer free access in the late fall and winter, and charge admission in late spring and summer. Most have seasonal changing areas and concession stands. Some of our favorites:

- Sherwood Island State Beach, Westport (off of exit 18, I-95). 203-226-6983, <http://dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/sherwood.htm>
- Silver Sands State Beach, 1 Samuel Smith Lane, Milford . 203-735-4311, <http://dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/silversands.htm>
- Penfield Town Beach, Fairfield Beach Road in Fairfield.
- Seaside Beach, off Barnum Dyke, exit 27 from I-95, in Bridgeport. 203-576-7233.
- Compo Beach, Compo Beach Road in Westport. 203-341-1590.
- St. Mary's by the Sea, in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport, is a park (not a beach) with gorgeous views over the sound. Follow the signs from Fairfield Avenue in Black Rock.

## Farther Afield

**New Haven** Twenty-five minutes by train or thirty minutes driving, offers the museums, music and theatre of Yale University, [www.yale.edu](http://www.yale.edu). Also in New Haven are the Long Wharf Theatre, a regional theatre company, [www.longwharf.org](http://www.longwharf.org), and the Schubert Theatre, [www.capa.com/newhaven](http://www.capa.com/newhaven), a popular venue for touring performances, famous for the pre-Broadway tryout.

**New York** One hour and thirty minutes by train or driving from our studio, offers museums, theatres, and musical performances. Best sources for timely information are the New York Times, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) Time Out Magazine, [www.timeout.com/newyork](http://www.timeout.com/newyork) and New York Magazine, [www.nymag.com](http://www.nymag.com)