

Photo tribute to *Laura Purdy*
founder of *The Pale Court*



By Kambriel

Two years ago, the gothic scene grew even darker with the loss of one of its pre-eminent designers, Laura Purdy ~ founder of The Pale Court. Laura's life was cut tragically short at the young age of only 31 ~ at a time when she had so much more left to see, to do, to hear, to feel, and to create.

Laura and I had a friendship rooted in a shared love of shadowed elegance. We reveled in the beauty we found in the darkness and sought to bring this beauty to life through our own designs into an idealized form. Laura personified this quintessential darkly romantic style through and through. She reveled in soft velvets and textured brocades, found inspiration in the depths of mysterious black, and used jewel tones with a regal flair. Silhouettes were long and flowing, always shaped with a love for a mythic feminine ideal. Her designs were sometimes opulent, sometimes tattered, and always graceful.

Living in the American midwest, one of the long held dreams Laura had was to travel overseas to the United Kingdom to delve deeper into her Celtic roots. The locales found there amongst the ancient stone ruins and magical forests held a special place in her heart, and provided a home for her spirit.

Sadly, Laura did not physically make it to the UK before her passing from this mortal coil, so it was important to me to do something symbolic that would help her spirit reach those places she had so longed to go.

When Laura died, she had boxes and boxes, bags and bags, of unfinished designs ~ garments cut, but not yet sewn. Immediately, it became apparent that something I could do for Laura was to take on her unfinished designs, and fit together the pieces of these unlabeled puzzles, working to see them through to a completed vision. Indeed, on many occasions, I felt her spirit beside me as I worked. It took over a year to finish all of them, so in a way it felt like doing so was akin to "giving" her just a little more of the time back that was taken from her so prematurely.

My goal was to bring these finished designs, the final creations of Laura's, to photograph amidst the land of her dreams. On these pages, is a photographic tribute to Laura Purdy ~ a visionary designer and beloved friend, whose spirit indeed lives on.

In memoriam:
ThePaleCourt.com

Many of the one of a kind designs featured on these pages (34-39), along with the other final designs of Laura's not shown here will be available with all proceeds going towards The Pale Court memorial at:

Kambriel.com/thepalecourt.html



Embroidered Chiffon Top



∞ KAMBRIEL ∞

model: Susan | photo: Kambriel



Wine Velvet Top



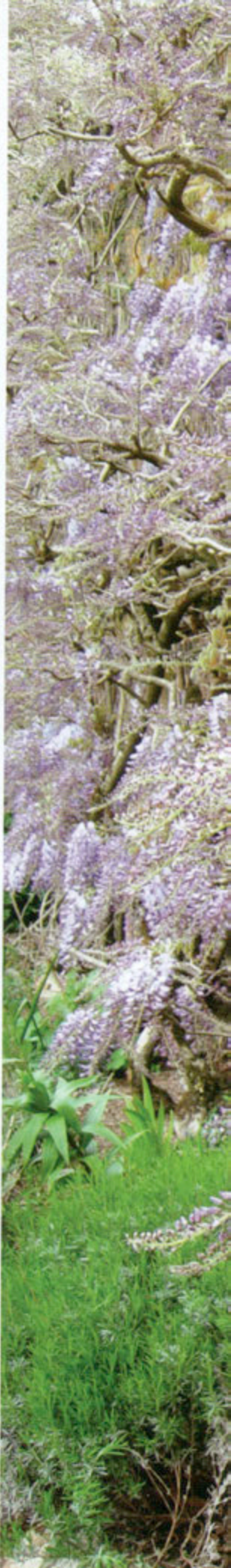
model: Curse photo: Kambriel

Velvet & Brocade Frock Coat

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Laura Purdy Tribute

Rosegarden Skirt



model: Kambriel / photos: S. Luna



model: Susan photo: Kambriel

Wine Georgette Gown

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