

All Wrapped Up



P E R S O N A L I T Y O F T H E M O N T H

Lucy Pollock's sense of style has taken her from London's prestigious art academy, St. Martin's, to Christian Lacroix's Paris atelier and on to Asia and Singapore. Here she has orchestrated the Republic's first fashion degree and is about to launch her first childrenswear line, Lucie & Oscar. Helen West talks to a style guide.

With a passion for fabric and fashion, and creative talent that followed where her heart led, London fashion designer Lucy Pollock graduated from the treasured dressing-up box of her childhood and set off on progressive course that has brought her a long way, not only in her chosen profession, but also from her native England.

After completing a bachelors Degree in Fashion and Textile Design at Ravensbourne College of Art and Design, Lucy went on to do her Masters in Womenswear Design at the prestigious St. Martin's School of Art in London. From there she went straight to the world's fashion capital, Paris, to work as a designer with French couturier, Christian Lacroix. She later booked a ticket for Asia; initially Hong Kong, then Thailand, followed by Korea, and, since 1994, Singapore.

After a decade in Asia, the synthesis of East and West is evident in Lucy's designs, the oriental influence tangible in their form, colour and fabric. While Asia has added greatly to the richness of her palette, it was during her time with Lacroix that she really learned about colour and texture. "I'm a fabric snob", she says, "I know a quality fabric when I see one", and indeed the east has provided her with a wealth to choose from.

Singapore suits Lucy down to the ground. "Work-wise its been fantastic for me in Singapore", enthuses Lucy, who, in addition to running her own design business has found in teaching another outlet for her creative talents and expertise. "Teaching is something I wanted to do years ago but living in Korea and Bangkok I couldn't because of the language barrier. But as soon as I got here I started teaching fashion at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and later was asked by Temasek Polytechnic to compile the fashion section of their Apparel Design Diploma". Her "proudest achievement education-wise" came about through her work with LaSalle SIA College of the Arts where she completely revamped and expanded the scope of the Fashion Diploma courses, and was the prime mover in setting up Singapore's first Fashion Degree course, which begins this July. No small feat considering her initial agenda. "When

I went to LaSalle they gave me six months to decide whether I closed the Fashion Design Department or keep it open".

Michael Field, Dean of LaSalle's Visual Arts Department speaks of Lucy in glowing terms. "As a teacher she is dynamic and professional, earning both respect and affection from her students and colleagues. She has injected life and excitement into the fashion programme, developing rigour and a very strong sense of professionalism".

Her work at LaSalle done - having achieved what she set out to do - Lucy is all set to launch "Lucie & Oscar", her first range of children's wear and a project that is very close to her heart. It's been on her mind for years, but more so since her son Oscar, arrived on the scene. It addresses the gap she found in the market for reasonably priced, European-style, well made, quality children's clothes that will stand up to a lot of washing and wearing and still look great. "I've done all the testing of the market through having my own little chap," she says.

"I love change, I like to have many projects on the go as they all bounce off one another and spill over into other facets and avenues of creativity and self expression. I enjoy working with lots of different things - jewellery design, interiors, accessories and photography". In addition to designing her range of children's wear, Lucy is currently in the process of making a pilot show for a TV fashion programme, as well as discussing the possibility of becoming a fashion consultant with



the Singapore Art Museum while writing articles for magazines and of course, continuing to design haute couture, made-to-measure, "occasion wear". Lucy admits to missing her students and wanting to return to teaching. "Teaching is very important to me - I find it so rewarding, in giving you get so much in return, it's a two way street". Nevertheless, she is adamant that "creative people should not sit in institutions full time - you must be stimulated in the working world to be able to pass current knowledge on to the students. My priority for now is getting Lucie & Oscar marketed and known, then moving on to the next project. That's me, create, learn and move on".

Singapore
Vogue
'96.

lucy pollock

"There's nothing like the feeling of a wedding dress that has been made to measure for you, that moves with you, not against you," explains Lucy Pollock. "And using only the best fabrics makes an enormous difference to the final look and feel."

The process of designing a dress begins with a lengthy consultation with the client. Pollock considers this crucial: "Getting an idea of the kind of woman she is helps me to suggest something that will fit the bill. Having an idea of the occasion and its setting, the time of day and any particular requirements (like being able to dance) is an enormous help."

Although she is a skilled tailor, she confines herself to design, fabric selection and fitting, leaving the sewing to carefully chosen tailors.

"The key to a good wedding dress is to select something that won't date too obviously. Then, when you look back at your photos, you won't gasp in horror at the faddishness of the styling."

Emma Warlow

Lucy Pollock silk/satin sheath dress with button-back cropped jacket, \$1,000.

indulgences

Her wedding dress is the most important garment that a woman will wear. These creations by Singapore's bridal couturiers measure up to expectations. By Stephanie Green