



by Fiona Ellis

I know everybody is excited to see the Fall issue (me included) but summer isn't over yet you know! We just heard that [Elann is having a sale on Reynolds' Cool Cotton](#) so now is the perfect time to make my design from last year's Summer issue of Twist Collective, [Chartres](#). If you get going now you will have it done for Summer's last hurray and will be able to wear it under a jacket when Fall does arrive.



This got me thinking about when I had originally designed Chartres. I spend quite a bit of time musing over that elusive thing we call creativity, and I post here often about the whole process including where I find my inspiration. I was more than a little surprised and amused when the

swatch for Chartres almost fell off my needles without my thinking too hard about it. I was working on it as a carry around project and along with my knitting I always have a book with me. I was reading "Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follett, which is a millstone of a book and not really good carry-around material but I just couldn't put it down.



So one afternoon as I worked on the swatch I decided that it needed to have a focal point. As I believe most of us would rather draw attention to our faces rather than our hips I created a gentle movement of the vertical lines towards a converging point at the neckline.



I was especially pleased with how it looked but something about it looked very familiar. I picked up the book later and there it was right on the cover - I had created a cathedral window tracery without even being aware I was doing it. So of course the design was named Chartres after the famous cathedral in France.

