

Labyrinth

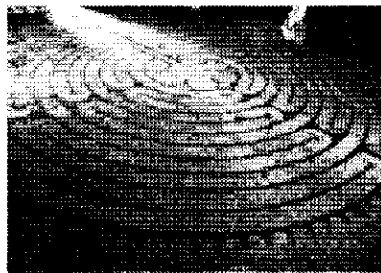
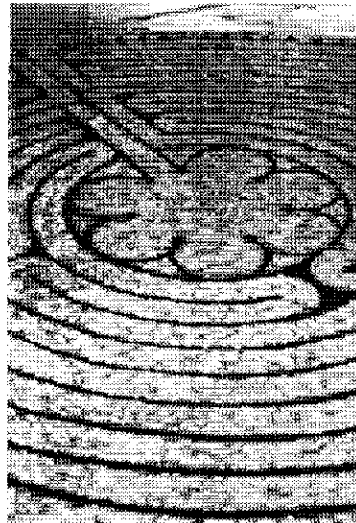
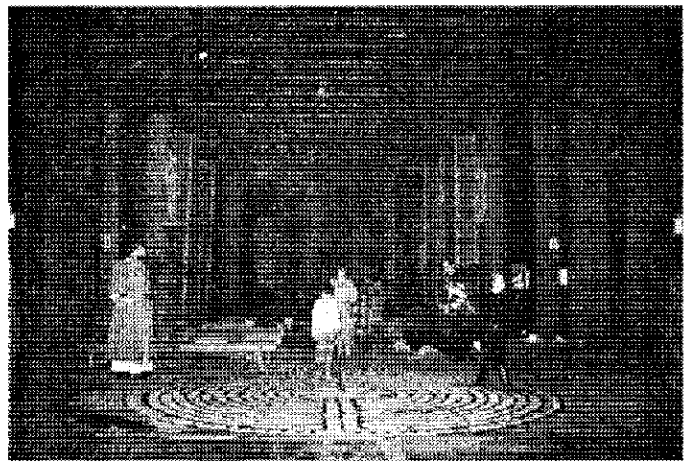
When researching the labyrinth, I discovered that Grace Cathedral, a modern church in San Francisco, recently completed a 30-ft. canvas replica of the Chartres labyrinth that they call "The Labyrinth Project."

For the pilgrim visiting Chartres in the Middle Ages, walking the labyrinth set into the floor stones completed a spiritual journey. *Noetic Sciences Review* describes the maze as a threefold path:

"The first part was Purgation, a letting go of the cares of the world. The second was illumination, where standing in the center, one could experience clarity of heart and mind. The third, Union, or joining God, occurred as one walked back out into the world emboldened by the meeting in the center."

Originally, our reconstruction was to measure 20 feet in diameter. With the demise of our slated labyrinth builder, however, we downsized to a 15-ft. circle. The two artisans who made the labyrinth, Grimm Aleksson and Harald Longfellow, did a superb job of transferring the image, and a crew of about six others assisted them in painting in the lines. Finally, Duke Merewold and Lady Sarah Lyttel applied the necessary paint, giving the stones their textured appearance.

The resulting set piece far exceeded expectations. All through the evening and up until the time of strike, adults and children navigated the maze. Indeed, from the look on some of their faces, just staring at the pattern seemed to have a soothing effect. Harald Longfellow took the maze home to Carolingia with him.



Below: The labyrinth from Chartres Cathedral (30-ft. diameter)
Above and Left: Our reconstructed labyrinth (15-ft. diameter)