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THE RADAR NOW!

EDITED BY CORY OHLENDORF



THE NEW BLACK: DC's skyline is getting an extreme makeover and the new face for fall is glass, glass...and more glass.



[TRENDWATCH] GLASS WARFARE

In a city known for avoiding transparency, it's a dueling race to see who can put up the largest number of suspended glass plates the fastest. Sleek layers of see-through skins have been replacing the brick-and-mortar façades of high-rises all over town this year. When the New York-based equity firm Somerset Partners moved into 85,000 square feet at 1801 K Street, its new mid-Atlantic HQ became a trophy building—complete with a glass curtain wall. Other buildings getting shined up: The structure at 17th and I Streets and the gutted space on Connecticut Avenue near nightclub MCCXXIII. In fact, glass-master I.M. Pei's firm is responsible for the latter. So what does the transparent trend say about our town? "Well, for one thing, it's a perfect sustainable building material," says Bill Bonstra of Bonstra Haresign Architects, a master of glass himself. "And though it's long been associated with rather bland buildings from the '60s, we're now using it to update DC with a sleek, modern look." —*Tiffany Jow*



Christian Siriano

[CHECKING IN] FROCK STAR

It's the oldest story in reality TV. Boy meets producer. Boy captures hearts of millions. Boy wins and quietly vanishes into the shadows. But however timeworn the path, local boy Christian Siriano, 21, isn't following. In the five months since he won *Project Runway*, the former Bubbles shampoo tech has been popping up everywhere and dressing the likes of Victoria Beckham, Kimberly Locke and UK singer Estelle. This month, his collection for Bluefly.com launches.

We can finally buy Christian Siriano pieces! Tell us about the collection. You know I love jackets, so there are two. I've got two dresses, a great pair of pants and a signature style blouse similar to the one Becki Newton wore on *Ugly Betty*. And a t-shirt that's simple, but still very chic, of course. *Since Project Runway, you've been hanging with Posh and guest-starring on Ugly Betty. You talked the talk, but how's it feel to be walking the walk?* It's kind of a blur, you know? But I've been working since I was 13, really, so it's the most amazing thing. The days are quick, but they're so much fun. I wouldn't change anything for the world. It's almost perfect. *Almost? What would make it perfect?* Sleep. I need more sleep. *So what's keeping you up at night?* My spring collection. I'll be showing at Fashion Week in September. This will be more of a full range—from wearable pieces to very high fashion, couture-like pieces. This collection, I'm feeling, will be a bit more futuristic. It will be a show for sure and a fierce one at that! *And what's on the horizon?* Too much! Since the Bluefly collection, I've been designing spring, and in between that I've been working on a 15-piece collection for Puma. I might be designing the wardrobe for a movie, but I can't give any details yet. Oh, and I'm dressing Whoopi Goldberg for the Tony Awards. Then, when there's time, I'm writing a fashion guide book. *A fashion guide? Will it be like SNL's "Fierce: The Hot Mess Make-Over Show?"* Oh my God, no. But wasn't that hilarious? I just died laughing. I love Amy Poehler, but it was kind of scary how much she looked like me, wasn't it? —*Cory Ohlendorf*

GLASS BUILDING PHOTOS BY GREG POWERS AND AUDREY CREWE; CHRISTIAN SIRIANO PHOTO BY BRAD WALSH



Chinese screen siren Shu-Qi stars in Louis Vuitton's Soundwalk campaign.



Above: A retro track jacket by Ralph Lauren.
Right: The I-Gucci watch.

[FASHION BUZZ] GOLD RUSH

Olympic fever has reached as far as the fashion pack, with the US, Italy and France all vying for the most stylish souvenirs the games have to offer. Über-American Ralph Lauren will be dressing our guys and gals with classic sporting pieces (tennis vests, anyone?) and the entire collection will be available to us mere mortals this month. Gucci unveiled its crimson-hued "8-8-2008" collection, which includes the house's first digital timepiece, the I-Gucci, with a dedicated spot for Beijing time. Headed to the games? Louis Vuitton, long a purveyor of traditional travel togs, has gone digital for its first Olympic foray with a trilogy of downloadable city guides to Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. The travel companions come complete with interactive maps, photos and narration by some of China's top movie stars. After all, it's not whether you win or lose, it's how you look while playing the game. *Ralph Lauren Olympic collection, available at Ralph Lauren, Chevy Chase and Georgetown. Gucci 8-8-2008 watch, \$1,415, available at Gucci, Chevy Chase. Louis Vuitton Soundwalk, \$17, at www.louisvuitton.com. —C.O.*



A SWEET SUITE:
Juicy Couture's new
Georgetown digs.

JUICY'S FRUITS

Juicy Couture—the label behind those ubiquitous, love-'em-or-hate-'em, velour tracksuits—has opened its own retail store on M Street. Inside the fun-loving, two-story shop, the West Coast brand stocks its signature laid-back looks for men, women and kids. We sat down with co-founder Gela Nash-Taylor to get the scoop on Juicy's Washington invasion.

You've created a signature, yet evolving look. What parts of the Juicy line are never changing—and what's constantly changing? Juicy Couture is a cult. It's a philosophy. We're luxury for the masses. We've always been about color, fit and luxurious fabrics. We always have a sense of humor. Fashion and form constantly change, but our philosophy remains the same: We are two nice girls who love stuff. *Why do you think your California aesthetic has caught on?* Because L.A. is the epicenter of causal luxury. Comfort, style and color are the three key elements. It is a total mix of high and low fashion aesthetics. *Will the tracksuit ever die?* Our new campaign is all about track suits. We are selling more today than ever. [They are] pure luxurious comfort. *You now have lines for women, men, kids and even dogs. What's next?* Lounge and yoga to name a couple. The rest will be a surprise. *Celebrities have always been a big part of Juicy's success. Who do you think best embodies the Juicy spirit?* We love Madonna, Katherine Heigl, Jennifer Lopez and Cameron Diaz. Among men: Adrian Brody, Brad Pitt and Terrence Howard. *Where do you see Juicy heading in the next decade?* To total world dominance. *Why did you decide to open in Georgetown?* We love DC. My daughter wants to go to George Washington University, so I hope to spend insane amounts of time there. But the main reason is that the Senate and Congress asked us to. *Juicy Couture, 3034 M St., NW, 202.337.4131. —Kate Templin*



From left: Pamela Skaist-Levy and Gela Nash-Taylor