
MADE IN THE SHADE



PHOTO: MICHAEL CRICHTON, PROP STYLING: LEIGH MACMILLAN

First developed for pilots in the 1930s, the aviator has been through many costume changes. But those previous incarnations were merely dress rehearsals in our eyes. This year the shades first made famous by World War II vet General Douglas MacArthur receive an upgrade worthy of their lofty history. Elegant detailing in leather and gold, along with colored lenses in green, blue and amber, keep this classic looking cooler than ever. —AS From top: Dior, Gucci, Oliver Peoples, Cutler and Gross, Chloé



Culture
Tour de Force
metmuseum.org

Miuccia Prada has long been thought of as the last great surrealist, and her penchant for bewildering color combinations (acid-hued furs!) and unexpected materials (PVC heels!) has made her one of the leading figures in the fashion world. This spring New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art pairs looks from Prada's extensive archives with another great surrealist, Elsa Schiaparelli, who boldly countered Coco Chanel's rigid black-and-white aesthetic during the 1930s with a much-needed touch of whimsy. Catch this dynamic duo in *Schiaparelli and Prada: Impossible Conversations* at the Met's Costume Institute, May 10 to August 19. -AS

Sports
Cool Rider
jamesperse.com



James Perse Surfboards, part of the clothing brand's limited-edition series, are handcrafted by one of southern California's preeminent shapers and glassers. While the cut is classic surf, the clean lines and minimal decoration are just what you would expect from the company that reinvented the white T-shirt. -AS



Style
Medal Detector
manoloblahnik.com // liberty.co.uk

Just in time for the London Olympics, Manolo Blahnik's Spring/Summer 2012 collection pays homage to the birthplace of the Games. We love his Grecian sandals in metallic shades and ankle boots inspired by ancient coliseums (pictured). This season Blahnik has another reason to celebrate London: His heels, scarves and handbags now have their own exclusive section in the city's Liberty department store. -NM



Hotels
ART FOR BREAKFAST
leroyalmonceau.com

Le Royal Monceau is a Parisian palace hotel in the true sense of the word. Embodying the essence of Paris's jazz age, the hotel saw a revolving door of writers, musicians and artists who spent countless nights together in a flurry of artistic activity. When the hotel reopened in October 2010 with a complete redesign by Philippe Starck, it was clear that art was still everywhere. Find guitars in each guestroom, haphazardly placed books and Malraux prose on bedside lampshades - all meant to evoke the feeling of intimacy. Further, the hotel houses an art bookstore and a stand-alone gallery, while a dedicated art concierge will gladly arrange private museum tours and bid on auction items for guests. With all these whimsical flourishes, it's not hard to imagine René Magritte tipping his bowler hat to a hotel that still knows how to inspire. -AS

TIME AFTER TIME

With an influx of complicated mechanisms and larger-than-life features, sometimes all you need (and crave) is a Classic. A throwback to the timepieces of the 1950s and 1960s, today's watches are already heirlooms.



BREGUET CLASSIQUE
- Alligator strap
- Platinum case
- Classic Roman numerals on dial

HERMÈS ARCEAU GRANDE LUNE
- An equestrian hoop-shaped stirrup was the inspiration for the upper lug design
- Moon phase indicator with rhodium stars
- Herringbone pattern on dial

LONGINES CHRONOGRAPH
- Alligator strap
- Stainless steel case
- Superluminova, rhodium-plated dauphine hands

VACHERON CONSTANTIN PATRIMONY CONTEMPORAINE
- Alligator strap
- Platinum case
- 18k gold, slate-colored opaline dial

RAYMOND WEIL PARSIFAL
- Alligator strap
- Automatic chronograph movement
- 18k pink gold bezel

PHOTO: MICHAEL CREIGHTON, PROF STYLING: LEIGH MACMILLAN

Heritage brands like Breguet and Longines have been the first to revive the Classic (with a capital "C"). The result is a sleek, new generation of timepieces that demands only two things from the wearer: a sharp suit and a discerning eye for quality. A hallmark of good taste, a Classic takes its design cues from a combination of four essential elements: a slim profile to fit perfectly under a shirt cuff, a clean dial (usually adorned with Roman numerals), traditional hardware in gold or silver and, to finish, straps in brown, black or blue alligator. Here's to the modern heirloom. -CB



Style

Tech Savvy

modaoperandi.com // 1stdibs.com // faubourgsaintgermain.com // gilt.com

In the online world where discount shopping reigns supreme, a small but noteworthy revolution is quietly underfoot. Welcome to the upper echelons of e-shopping. Leading the pack are Aslaug Magnúsdóttir and Lauren Santo Domingo of **MODA OPERANDI**. Their recently launched site offers members the chance to buy from collections right after their runway debut, with items arriving anywhere from six weeks to six months later. But Santo Domingo insists it's well worth the wait. Editor's picks: find antiques from the flea markets of Paris on **1STDIBS**; auction-worthy estate jewelry on **FAUBOURG SAINT-GERMAIN**; and premium fashion labels on **GILT NOIR** (of Gilt Groupe), which grants top spenders access to exclusive sample sales. —SP

Watches

Ocean's 12

rolex.com

Using the countdown function on a regatta watch can be tricky: You must start exactly when the gun goes off, and you have only one chance to get it right – until now. With its 360 components, the Rolex Yacht-Master II is the most complicated movement of any Rolex sport watch on the market today. At the 10-minute mark, the Yacht-Master II can be synchronized with that critical final countdown, allowing racers to be in precise step with the committee boat. By turning the bezel, you can even reprogram the timer for different starting sequences used by various yachting classes. —CB

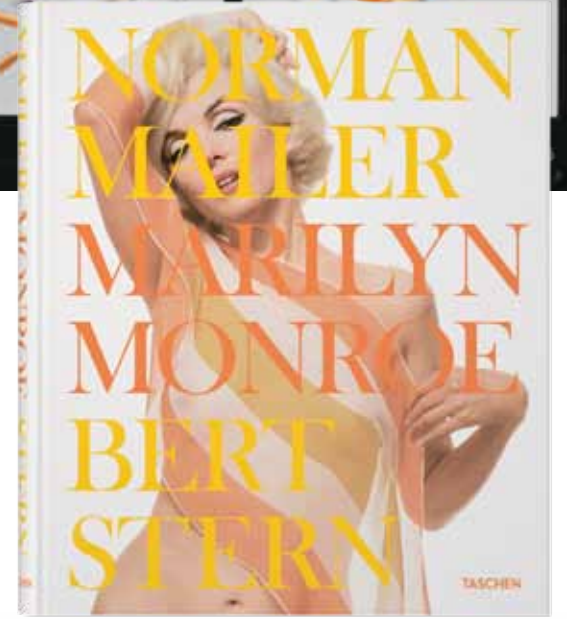


Media

Blonde Ambition

taschen.com

The dust jacket of Taschen's latest tome, *Norman Mailer/Bert Stern: Marilyn Monroe*, radiates Popsicle colors and provocative contours, a delicious blend of sweet and sultry for which the book's legendary subject was famed. This homage to Monroe on the 50th anniversary of her death combines the text of Norman Mailer's 1973 biography with Bert Stern's exceptionally candid photographs taken for *Vogue* six weeks before she died. The books are limited to 1,962 numbered copies, all signed by Stern. The two Art Editions (No. 1–250) also include a Stern-signed print of *Contact Sheet* or the alluring *Striped Scarf* used for the book's cover. —SP



Tech

Head Case

ultrasone.com

Whether you're blasting Black Sabbath or bowing to Bach, it's the headphones that make or break the listening experience. Cue Ultrasones' open-back Edition 10 headphones. Handcrafted in Bavaria, matt ruthenium housing and exotic Zebrano wood inlays adorn the outer ear cups, while ultra-soft Ethiopian sheepskin pads encase the headband and lining. This limited-edition model is equipped with the German manufacturer's patented S-Logic technology, which projects the sound around your head, not just into it. That's music to our ears. —JL

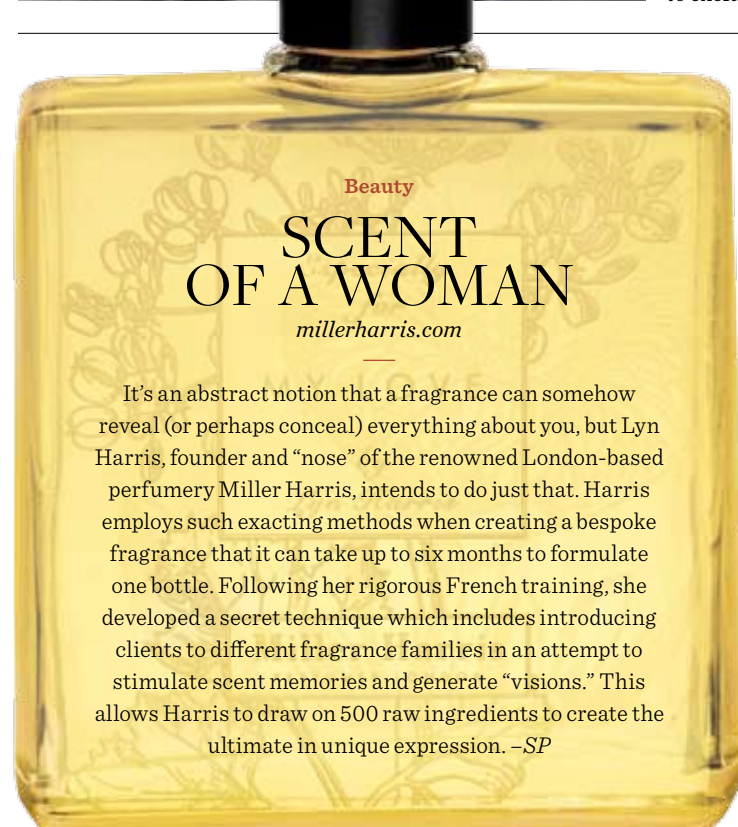


Design

ALL ABOUT ALICE

crystalbridges.org

Bentonville, Arkansas, is no New York City, but with the opening of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the hometown of its founder – Walmart heiress Alice Walton – now has its own claim to being the center of the U.S. art world. The spectacular 201,000-square-foot (18,674-square-meter) facility designed by Moshe Safdie is composed of nine pavilions assembled around two ponds. Inside, find works by early American masters like Gilbert Stuart, Asher Durand and Thomas Eakins, as well as modern artists Nick Cave (pictured), Georgia O'Keeffe and Roy Lichtenstein. Walton personally sought out many of the masterpieces over the last five years, a swiftness of acquisition dubbed “the Walton effect.” —NM



Beauty

SCENT OF A WOMAN

millerharris.com

It's an abstract notion that a fragrance can somehow reveal (or perhaps conceal) everything about you, but Lyn Harris, founder and “nose” of the renowned London-based perfumery Miller Harris, intends to do just that. Harris employs such exacting methods when creating a bespoke fragrance that it can take up to six months to formulate one bottle. Following her rigorous French training, she developed a secret technique which includes introducing clients to different fragrance families in an attempt to stimulate scent memories and generate “visions.” This allows Harris to draw on 500 raw ingredients to create the ultimate in unique expression. —SP



Food

European Union

theritzlondon.com

At the helm of The Ritz Restaurant in London is Executive Chef John Williams. With four decades of industry experience, Williams created a menu that honors The Ritz's classic French heritage, but with a decidedly British slant. Expect to dine on Prince of Wales beef, Irish and Scottish lamb and shellfish sourced from English waters. There is, however, one thing that he refuses to source from the United Kingdom. “A French truffle is a thing of perfection,” notes Williams, who has been importing black and white truffles for nearly 30 years. “I think I've imported the most truffles in all of England.” —AS