

4

THE INSPIRATION

Baroque

Fashion falls back in love with the golden age of decadence

It was Robert Polidori's sumptuous picture-book *Versailles* that provided the starting point for Peter Dundas' intricately embellished collection for Emilio Pucci this season. The dashing Norwegian dreamt up a winter palace – trading France for the Austrian Tyrol – and let rip with decadent Baroque embroideries, ruffled lace, bow-detail tops and – crucially – some serious décolletage. 'When I started looking at Austrian folk costumes there were all these beautiful corsets, and this is the first time that I have worked with the portrait neckline,' says Dundas. Romy Schneider's romantic corsetry in 1955 film *Sissi* was another inspiration for Dundas' cleavage-boosting, crystal-encrusted velvet dresses.

He's not the only one channelling a refreshing luxuriance this season – Julien Macdonald has created gowns of cobweb lace and gold embroideries; jewels the size of quail's eggs embellish gold lamé at Dolce & Gabbana; and at Balmain – where opulence is a given – mini-dresses are decorated with heavy metal embroideries. These are clothes for seriously exquisite locations, so wear Baroque head-to-toe at Jacques Garcia's renovated Hotel Danieli in Venice – the perfectly decadent backdrop.

£4,996 Julien Macdonald

£45 Topshop

£6,990 Roberto Cavalli

£60 Topshop

£1,121 Chanel

To order: Vivienne Westwood

£25 V&A Publishing

BAROQUE

5

THE HOT TREND

GOLD DETAILS

Metallic accents such as McQueen's rich beading and Marchesa's bejewelled epaulettes give simple dresses an armour-like quality.

Anne Hathaway in **Alexander McQueen**

Daphne Guinness in her own label and vintage

Leslie Mann in **Marchesa**

6

THE POP-UP

CABINET DE CURIOSITIES

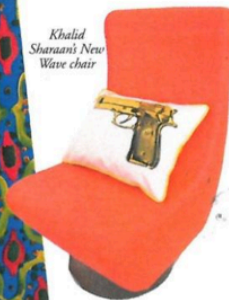
Browns is tapping into the trend for unique pieces with a pop-up curated by trend commentator Thomas Erber. The space, opening in November, will mix fashion and art, including extravagant jewels by Loree Rodkin and bespoke pieces by Rodarte. Manolo Blahnik has created a crocodile 'tree' shoe, complete with silk leaves.

From a selection, **Loree Rodkin**

Khalela Abmarri's
Elvis portrait



Khalid
Sharaani's New
Wave chair



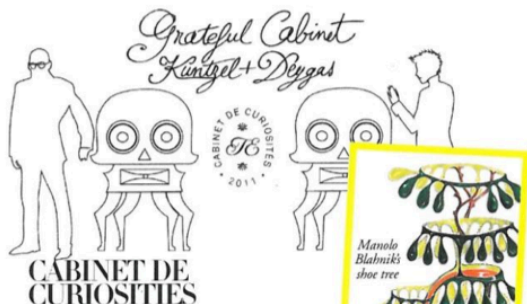
Pop Chair by
Khalid Sharaani

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Everywhere fashion is collaborating with art, so now the line that separates them seems to hardly exist at all. At Saks Fifth Avenue they're jumping on the *Bazaar* bandwagon and supporting local talent by commissioning three artists living in the region to dress their windows for the coming fashion season. The result? Well, pop down and take a look for yourselves...

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE, DUBAI.
TEL: +971 4 3613333

FAR OUT We love Nicole Farhi's home furnishings collection, so we were pleased to hear talk of a new standalone boutique and restaurant to open here by the end of the year that will doubtless become the place to stock up on gorgeous textiles and elegant homeware. www.nicolefarhi.com



CABINET DE CURIOSITIES

Tapping into the current and seemingly inexhaustible appetite for Victorian oddities, Browns has commissioned legendary fashion journalist Thomas Erber to hand-pick 25 internationally renowned artists and designers to create one off objets d'art dedicated to the concept of design. From clothes and accessories to jewels and works of art, you'll see Manolo Blahnik's, Lulu Guinness, Rodarte and Loree Rodkin as you've never seen them before.

BROWNS, LONDON.
TEL: +44 20 7514 0056

Rare Tamo Ash
jewellery box by
Deanne Steinberg's
iWoodesign



A JOURNEY INTO COLOUR

There's no denying the fascination with all things authentically oriental, and Rifat Ozbek's new London boutique Yastik is prime example. First launched in Turkey five years ago with Erdal Karaman, the concept brings together vintage, new and custom made fabrics from Central Asia which are then dyed, loomed and printed, all by hand. The embroidered suzani fabrics are applied to ancient Ottoman patterns, creating a truly exotic collection of bespoke cushions in cotton, silk and velvet. The new London store in Holland Park has over 150 styles in more than 100 designs. From around Dhs300, Tel: +44 20 3538 7981

MEET Rifat Ozbek

- HBI:** What inspired you to launch the first Yastik boutique?
RO: I bought a holiday house in Southern Turkey 10 years ago and when furnishing it, I couldn't find any cushions I liked. So, we came up with the idea of creating our own.
- HBI:** How many are there now, and where?
RO: Now, there are two shops in Turkey (Istanbul and near Izmir) and one in London.
- HBI:** What made you consider London as the next destination?
RO: We noticed that our customers in Turkey come from everywhere. Our cushions have an international appeal and London is the right platform for such diversity. And of course, I live in London!
- HBI:** Describe the appeal of authentic Ottoman design.
RO: It is the opulence of colour combinations
- HBI:** What are you working on at the moment?
RO: I'm working on the new Yastik autumn winter collection. I am also decorating the basement of Robin Birley's new Mayfair club, Rupert's.
- HBI:** How did you find the artisans who make your designs a reality?
RO: Istanbul is full of skilled artisans. My partner and I love going around and discovering interesting places. Turkey has always been a platform for trade from the East and the links with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are ancient.
- HBI:** I understand that each of the patterns on a suzani or ottoman have distinct meanings, can you tell us about this?
RO: The patterns in our collection are mostly referring to Ottoman gardens which were full of tulips, pomegranates and carnations. I love the richness of the colours and patterns.

