CALIFORNIA pparel \$2.99 VOLUME 73, NUMBER 18 APRIL 28-MAY 4, 2017



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SHOW: Amanda Crutcher, left, and Roxi Suger, right, work in the Angelrox booth at Fashion Market Northern California in San Mateo, Calif. Suger is based in Biddeford, Maine, where she also has a trendy boutique called Suger. For

LRG Acquired by Mad Engine

By Andrew Asch Retail Editor

Lifted Research Group, a popular Irvine, Calif.-headquartered urban streetwear brand, was acquired by licensed apparel company Mad Engine LLC.

Terms of the deal was not disclosed. But the acquisition marks Mad Engine's entry into branded apparel, said Danish Gajiani, chief executive officer of the San Diego-headquartered apparel company.

"The experience of the LRG team and sound infrastructure will serve as a solid foundation and platform to launch the branded division and bring on many additional brands in the future," Gajiani said in a statement.

Rob Wright, LRG's cofounder, said that the deal will give increased support to the brand, which has been sold at Macy's and Fred Segal in the past. "I am optimistic about this new chapter, which creates the ability to grow the LRG brand and creates new opportunities and experiences for those involved," Wright said in a statement. Intrepid Investment Bankers advised LRG on the deal.

Mad Engine is celebrating its 30th year in business. The global licensed apparel wholesaler has worked with licenses such as Marvel, Star Wars, Disney and Nickelodeon. In 2014, Mad Engine made headlines when it acquired Cana-

dian company Xtreme Worldwide Inc. Xtreme supplied Canadian retailers with licensed product. According to Mad Engine's website, the venture was renamed Mad Engine International. It markets licensed product to retailers outside the United States.

Mad Engine runs a handful of separate divisions in locations around California. Its product for men and boys is headquartered in San Diego. The girls' division and the juniors and misses division is located in Glendale, Calif. The company also runs an adult loungewear division in Sausalito, outside of San Francisco.

LRG started business in 1999 in Santa Ana, Calif. Wright and cofounder Jonas Bevacqua pitched the menswear brand as a line that would mix inspirations from hip-hop and action sports such as skateboarding as well as fine art.

It captured the imagination of the hip-hop and streetwear crowd. Kanye West appeared in LRG advertisements and it was a top-selling brand at streetwear-focused e-tailer Karmaloop in 2006. Tragedy struck the brand when Bevacqua died in 2011. The Orange County Coroner Division announced that he had died of natural causes, driven by pneumonia and inflammation of the heart, according to media reports. LRG has been sold recently at Zumiez, Tilly's and Macy's. ●

Robertson Boulevard Looks for a Revival

By Andrew Asch Retail Editor

Kim Kardashian was photographed at Cuvée restaurant on Los Angeles' Robertson Boulevard recently. The paparazzi shooting a much-gossiped-about celebrity walking the retail street brought back memories of Robertson's glory days. It was a decade ago when buses filled with tourists spotted starlets shopping on the street and top retailers engaged in bidding wars for storefronts.

Robertson was hit hard by the Great Recession and currently has 13 vacancies on its premier strip between Third Street and Beverly Boulevard. However, a number of entrepreneurs are taking a risk on the strip, which once ranked among coveted Los Angeles retail real estate. Around six stores have opened on the street in the past six months. Peri Arenas opened high-end boutique Peri. A at 146 N. Robertson Blvd. on April 6.

Arenas said that moving onto the street was a gamble. "It went down. I want to help it come back," she said. "I remember when it was the place to be. I am a firm believer in history repeating itself. Ît will do so on Robertson." She picked a storefront on Robertson after traveling the city's Robertson page 2

Azrias Lose Out in Contract **Dispute With BCBG**

By Deborah Belgum Senior Editor

A U.S. bankruptcy court judge in New York tossed out a labor contract lawsuit brought by BCBG founder Max Azria and his wife, Lubov Azria, who are no longer working at the Los Angeles clothing company, which filed for bankruptcy protection in late February.

The bankruptcy judge in New York issued a ruling on April 24 and is expected to enter a final order soon.

The Azrias' contract dispute was filed in March, shortly after Chief Creative Director Lubov Azria was fired and replaced by Bernd Kroeber, who has been with the company for a decade and whose first collections were expected to debut for Spring 2018.

The Azrias maintained that Lubov was illegally dismissed and should have received a \$7 million golden-

⇒ BCBG page 3



www.apparelnews.net

Noon Goons: From SoCal Punk to High-End Design

SewCal is a production company in downtown Los Angeles' Fashion District. Its founder, Kurt Narmore, moonlights as the designer for high-end men's contemporary line Noon Goons, which is moving from an inspiration of Southern California concrete to a continental sophistication.

Noon Goons is inspired by Southern California's

punk-rock scene, skating and surfing. It has been recently picked up by retailer **Dover** Street Market, an emporium curated by Rei Kawakubo of Commes Des Garçons, with locations in London and Tokyo. It also was picked up by high-end men's e-commerce site Mr. Porter, with offices in London and New York. Noon Goons is also scheduled to ship pieces from its Fall/Winter '17 styles to the Union boutique on Los Angeles' La Brea Avenue

SewCal will continue to finance Noon Goons, Narmore said. But he hopes to con-





tinue building the line and finding a forum for what he believes is a unique, Southern California point of view.

Working with Narmore on Noon Goons is Rick Klotz, who is considered the godfather of the streetwear fashion movement. Klotz founded the now-defunct streetwear line Fresh Jive. Klotz helps design some of Noon Goon's garments. Sam Jarou, a celebrated art director, serves as a creative consultant.

Narmore worked with Klotz at Fresh Jive, and together they introduced Warriors of Radness, a surf-inspired line. It was criti-





cally lauded but closed in 2013. Narmore introduced Noon Goons because he wanted a creative outlet. "This is like my art medium. I'm an apparel manufacturer. I love making clothes," Narmore said. "Noon Goons is me—surf, skate and growing up in Southern California. All I would do would listen to punk. It's my way of representing the Southern California lifestyle. [The styles in the line] are easy pieces. Nothing is over-designed.'

For the Spring/Summer 2017 collection, significant styles include a corduroy jacket with a bright, royal-blue color. "It's got that

bold color with a shiny zipper. If I saw it at a store, I'd pick it up myself. You don't see that color often," Narmore

Another popular piece is the "Stripe Zip Polo" shirt, which features wide stripes of white, black, blue and orange. Other pieces include a Tshirt bearing the slogan

"USA Surf." Also popular, cord shorts and chinos. Retail price points range from \$59 for T-shirts to \$579 for a varsity jacket.

Narmore has exhibited Noon Goons at Paris Men's Fashion Week. To exhibit, he rents a flat in the city's Marais district. "I like getting a flat in the middle of Marais. It's in the middle of everything. That's why we can get away with renting a flat; there are so many buyers around that you can just invite them up to the flat. We've showed the line at 10 p.m. There are no rules," he said.

-Andrew Asch

Robertson Continued from page 1

other high-end retail streets. She chose Robertson because it is centrally located in Los Angeles and a stone's throw away from affluent enclaves such as Beverly Hills. Arenas formerly ran the Veri Peri boutique in Palm Springs, Calif.

Arenas forecast that her store will be a destination for stylish people seeking fashion labels that she said are not available at

other Los Angeles boutiques. Her boutique is located a couple of storefronts away from the project, which could hold the keys to Robertson's revival.

Robertson Plaza, located on the 120 block of North Robertson, is undergoing an extensive remodel. Construction crews are transforming a space once known for storefronts, offices and the long-vacant Newsroom Café into a restaurant-centered center.

High-end coffee roaster Blue Bottle Cof-







fee Co. is scheduled to move into Robertson Plaza and will probably open in the second

half of this year, said Jay Luchs, one of the

leading real estate brokers on the street.

Also scheduled to open later this year is **The**

Henry, a Phoenix-headquartered restaurant

chain that serves chopped salads, hamburg-

ers, steaks and fish as well as cocktails, ac-

cording to the restaurant's website. Other

businesses coming to Robertson Plaza will

Luchs said. "The market is not going to

come back for months, but it will be a great

street," he said. Luchs is vice chairman at

Food and pop-up shops opening on Robertson will bring people back to the street,

include a boxing studio and a bar.



ACROSS ROBERTSON: Clockwise from top left, the shuttered Lululemon Athletica on Robertson (photo by Andrew Asch); Peri Arenas at her new Peri.A boutique (image courtesy Peri. A); Kitross, which is coming up on its first anniversary (photo by Andrew Asch); and the interior of the Peri.A boutique (image courtesy of Peri.A)

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Newmark Grubb Knight Frank.At its zenith, Robertson retail real estate went for \$23 per square foot in the middle of 2008. Currently, Luchs said that prices run from \$6 per square foot to \$7 per square foot. Fraser Ross opened his boutique Kitross at 115 S. Robertson Blvd. in June 2016. Earlier

this month he opened a Kitross Kids boutique across the street. He said that high rents choked the street's business in the past, and they continue to be too high. He estimated that rents should be cut in half to \$3 per square foot.

He mentioned other ways that the street

could attract more business. "If we got free parking, we'd get more business to Robertson. Beverly Hills has free parking. Free parking is like free shipping. You don't want to make people pay just to shop," Ross said.

New tenants with long leases include Peri. A and Ambassador of Italian Excellence, a design, fashion, jewelry and art store located at 142 N. Robertson Blvd. Max-Bone, a high-end pet-products boutique located at 118 S. Robertson Blvd., also opened re-

New tenants on the street also include pop-up shops such as T-shirt and hoodiefocused line Mad Happy, which was open for a week at 145 N. Robertson Blvd. It was scheduled to close April 27. A pop-up for luxury footwear designer Tamara Mellon opened on 110 S. Robertson Blvd. and is scheduled to close in July.

The street continues to be the address of designer boutiques such as Chanel, multibrand designer boutique Curve and Intermix as well as made-in-Los Angeles brands such as Lauren Moshi. The street's reputation was hurt in the past few years when high-profile retailers such as Lululemon Athletica and Ralph Lauren closed their Robertson locations.

Retailers Dry Off From a Wet Winter to Attend Fashion Market Northern California

On Monday night, there was a three-hour happy hour with

By Deborah Belgum Senior Editor

Retailers weary of a soggy winter in Northern California were in a positive mood at the recent **Fashion Market Northern California** as they looked forward to a brighter summer and fall to entice customers through the doors.

The show, held April 23–25 at the **San Mateo County Event Center**, was completely sold out and was probably one of the largest shows in recent

years, exhibitors said.

"I think the retailers are happy that the weather has changed, and it is sunny now and stopped raining," said Sheryl Draper, an exhibitor based in San Rafael, Calif., who represents such labels as **Aunts & Uncles**, a belt and handbag label; **Dub & Drino**, a line of brightly colored tights and socks; and **Pom Jewelry**, made in Marin, Calif. "Attendees were doing a little bit of buying to freshen up things."

Fashion Market Northern California is an easy show for buyers to attend. The event center is close to the

freeway, and the large, cavernous hall leaves enough space to create wide aisles between the rows of sales booths. In the afternoon, show organizers wandered through the aisles pushing a large cart filled with cookies and beverages as an afternoon treat.



Chic Shop

two free drinks per person. And this year there was an educational tone to the show. On Monday evening, Mike Campion held a seminar on "How to Turn Your Store Into a Retail Magnet."

Buyers at the show were mostly from Northern California, but there was a cignificant purpher of stores from the

Buyers at the show were mostly from Northern California, but there was a significant number of stores from the Pacific Northwest that find the five-times-a-year trade show has sales reps from all over California. Store owners from

Alaska, Colorado and Arizona were also seen perusing booths.

Buyers were mostly placing orders for Fall, but a few sought out Immediates to fill in inventory. "Most people realized that for imported collections, they get only one shot per season to buy it because the importers are only bringing in a certain amount of goods at one time," said Steve Alpert, who represents several lines such as misses line Cielo Blu, the sportswear line Daniel and the outerwear brand Tally Ho.

Alpert, who has been exhibiting

at the show for years, said there is general softness in the apparel industry right now, but he was pleasantly surprised with the amount of business he wrote. "I did a comparison, and based on one year ago my business is up 15 to 18 percent," he said.

Still, he noted that buyers were cautious in Northern California because of the dampened mood inclement weather had placed on people's shopping habit. This last winter, 32.2 inches of rain fell on San Francisco, 10 inches above normal. "I wouldn't say the buyers are depressed, but I have seen them more optimistic at other times," he said.

In general, most exhibitors felt it was a good show and sales were up from last year. "We were solid for three days, and I felt pretty good," said Julie Walls, an exhibitor from Santa Cruz, Calif., who represents such labels as **Not Your Daughter's Jeans**, **Kinross Cashmere** and **Nic + Zoe** sweaters. "It's a funny time, but I feel like this market is getting a lot of attendance from stores in the Northwest who want to see a good mix of brands," she said.

Susan Burris, who represents **Cut Loose**, a casual line of clothing manufactured in San Francisco, and **Salaam**—a collection of tops, bottoms, skirts and dresses made in Vermont—said she got a lot of bigger orders than last year but retailers weren't feeling they could splurge on inventory. "People did say they can't wait for the weather to break," said the sales rep, based in Bolinas, Calif. "They said business was better, and they expected that to continue."

Julie Vandevert, whose JV & Associates showroom is located at the California Market Center in Los Angeles, left the show in a positive mood. "I know I sold more than last year," said the exhibitor, who represents clothing lines such as Cubism, Heartstrings and Kleen Idea. "That's good because I know people were coming off a hard spring with the rains. A lot of them were crying the blues a bit. But things are slowly starting to pick up for them."



Hom



Eileen Fisher

NEWS

BCBG Continued from page 1

Mick Campion giving a seminar to retailers

parachute payout. Lubov Azria's contract included an annual \$2.15 million base salary, an \$80,000-a-year wardrobe allowance, \$3,000 a month for an automobile lease and an annual driver allowance of \$50,000.

The Azrias contend she signed an employment

contract guaranteeing her long-time employment that was part of an out-of-court restructuring agreement in 2015 with investors, including affiliates of **Guggenheim Partners Investment Management**. The restructuring agreement reduced the Azrias' 100 percent ownership of the fashion house to 20 percent. Guggenheim Partners and affiliates have outstanding loans of more than \$324.4 million to BCBG.

BCBG said it was not required to make a \$7 million golden-parachute payment to Lubov Azria and maintained her dismissal was "consistent with the contract's language as well as the sound exercise of business judgment," the company said in court papers.

Since filing for bankruptcy protection on Feb. 28, BCBG Max Azria has announced it will close 120 unprofitable U.S. stores, which racked up \$10 million in losses during fiscal 2016. The company's 276 stores within stores will continue to operate, and 71 BCBG locations will remain open.

In addition, the company, founded in 1989 by

Max Azria, has been laying off scores of employees. Some 123 workers were let go last November and another 116 were given notice on March 13 that their layoffs would be effective on May 11.

BCBG executives were eager to resolve the contract dispute with the Azrias before the company exits bankruptcy. The company has maintained that



Lubov Azria



Max Azria

the most beneficial way to exit bankruptcy would be to establish partner relationships, expand digital and e-commerce, keep selected retail locations, and establish more wholesale and licensing agreements.

However, it is accepting offers for its assets with a May 19 deadline and a possible auction to be held on May 24. ●

Bebe to Liquidate Stores

Bebe Stores Inc. announced April 21 that it will liquidate its stores and inventory housed in those stores. The announcement, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, forecast that the San Francisco Bay Area–headquartered mall retailer will close all of its physical stores by the end of May.

In the document, Bebe said that it had entered into a consulting agreement with **Great American Group LLC** to sell all merchandise and inventory owned by Bebe in the retail stores as well as furnishings, fixtures and equipment. Bebe said it would pay the consultant \$550,000 for its services but would not estimate losses incurred from the sale at the time of the filing. Great American Group is an affiliate of **B. Riley & Co.** In March, Bebe announced that it had retained the Los Angeles—headquartered B. Riley & Co. as a financial adviser to help it explore strategic alternatives.

The announcement of store closures is the latest in a series of setbacks for Bebe. In late March, it filed an announcement with the state Department of Employment that it would lay off 400 retail workers as well as 136 workers at its headquarters in Brisbane, Calif. Also, 160 workers in a design office in Los Angeles were cut.

A company statement said that Bebe operates 134 retail stores, 34 outlet stores and an e-commerce site at *www.bebe.com*. The retailer also distributes and sells Bebe-branded products in 75 doors in 21 countries outside of America and Canada. Business outside of North America is run through licensees

Bebe will reportedly concentrate on e-commerce, post closure of its physical stores, according to a **Bloomberg News** report. Revenues for the company in fiscal 2016 were \$393.6 million, down from \$484.7 million in fiscal 2013.

Manny Mashouf founded Bebe in 1976. The brand developed a reputation for making women's clothes for nightclubbing and cocktails as well as officewear.—Andrew Asch

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CMC's June Charity Shopping Series to Benefit Red Eye



The third installment of the California Market Center's "Fashion With a Cause charity shopping event is set for June 30 and will benefit nonprofit organization Red Eye.

Featuring a curated collection of contemporary apparel, accessories and lifestyle merchandise for women, men, children and home, the event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will coincide with the sample sales throughout the Los Angeles Fashion District. There also will be food vendors and family-friendly activities. Admission fees and 5 percent of sales will be donated to Red Eye.

Red Eye was founded to help youth and communities in need through programs such as its Youth Mentor initiative. The organization collaborates with other nonprofit groups and consumer brands and has connected more than 3,900 volunteers to more than 12,500 children, young people and families in need.

'Red Eye is excited to partner with the CMC for their Fashion With a Cause event," said Red Eye founder Justin Mayo. "It is an awesome way for our nonprofit to engage with culture creators, influencers and leaders within the fashion industry and downtown Los Angeles community who might not yet be involved with Red Eye. This event will empower creatives with the opportunity to make a local impact through mentorship of kids in the housing projects and helps to meet

the needs of those living on the streets of Skid Row. Together, we are creating a better tomorrow, today.'

The CMC's first two Fashion With a Cause shopping events were held last year and benefited the Wags and Walks dog-rescue organization. Organizers said the charity shopping event was founded "to integrate communitybuilding and social-consciousness into its public fashion events." Previous vendors included For Love & Lemons, Fidelity Jeans, Kitsch, Vanessa Mooney, Spiritual Gangster, Crap Eyewear, DL1961 Denim, The Giving Keys, The Beach People, Eberjey and Poprageous.

For the June 30 event, sponsors include Jelly Belly, BAI, Califia Farms and OH! Snap Studios.

The CMC is honored to be working with an important community organization like Red Eye," said CMC Event Manager Rebecca Dennis. "Based on the successful outpouring of support shown by our shoppers and the fashion-industry community at our previous Fashion With a Cause events, we're excited to rally the fashion community to pay it forward once again and help support programs that benefit our local youth in need.'

The event is open to the public. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, visit http://cmcdtla.com/fashionwithacause.

—Alison A. Nieder

Calendar

April 30

IFJAG Stewart Hotel

New York Through May 3

May 6

35th Annual Scholarship Benefit and Fashion Show, presented by Otis College of Art and Design Beverly Hilton

Beverly Hills

Accessorie Circuit Intermezzo Collections Pooltradeshow AccessoriesTheShow

Fame Javits Center New York

Through May 9

May 10

Kinapins Basketball City New York Through May 11

May 14

Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Australia Various venues

Sydney Through May 19

May 16

Modama Expo Guadalajara Guadalajara, Mexico Through May 18

May 18

Imprinted Sportswear Show Nashville Music City Center Nashville, Tenn.

Through May 20

May 23

Licensing Expo

Mandalay Bay Convention Center Las Vegas

Through May 25 **Apparel Sourcing Show**

Grand Tika Futura Hotel Guatemala City, Guatemala Through May 25



For calendar details and contact information, visit ApparelNews.

Submissions to the calendar should be faxed to the Calendar Editor at (213) 623-5707. Please include the event's name, date, time, location, admission price and contact information. The deadline for calendar submissions is the Tuesday prior to Friday publication. Inclusion in the calendar is subject to available space and the judgment of the editorial staff.

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Fall/Winter 2017-'18 T-Shirt and Sweat Analysis by Trendstop

Global fashion forecasting agency **Trendstop** gives us the insider lowdown into the latest T-shirt and sweatshirt trends impacting womenswear for the Fall/Winter 2017–'18 season. New proportions, statement prints and fresh ideas for trims and detailing reenergize an iconic wardrobe staple, elevating it from casual classic to high-fashion must-have. From the international catwalk showcases to the style-setters on the street, the T-shirt's versatile appeal sees designers tapping into Fall's key silhouette, print and styling themes in one easy piece.



Hellessy, Fall/Winter 2017–18



J Crew, Fall/Winter 2017–18



Kenzo Memento, Fall/Winter 2017–18

The Ruffled Trim

Fall tees combine athleisure aesthetic with fashion-forward femininity as trims and details elevate humble basics. Ruffles and frills adorn collars or flow diagonally across the body while frill-edged cold-shoulder styles offer activewear casuals a directional new silhouette.

The Statement Tee

Making a statement is key for Fall. On the catwalks and on the streets, emblazoned slogan tees have their messages amplified by stark monochrome colorways. Clean-lined typographic prints and minimal detailing creates added impact for the expressive fashionista.



A.P.C., Fall/Winter 2017-18



Each Other, Fall/Winter 2017–18



Paris Street Style, January 2017

The Winter Crop

As fashion takes an increasingly trans-seasonal approach, jersey sweats are shrunk down and cropped short. These new foreshortened shapes are highlighted by contrasting extended arm lengths and voluminous cocooning silhouettes to create an ideal winter layering piece.



Off White, Fall/Winter



Anteprima, Fall/Winter 2017–18



Milan Street Style, February 2017



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Long-Sleeve Layering

An essential part of winter dressing, layering becomes a key styling trend. Rolled-up sweats and short-sleeved tees in graphic typography prints contrast against long-sleeved patterned underlayers. Color-matched pieces highlight layered looks with exaggerated volumes.



House of Holland, Fall/Winter 2017–18





Marques Almeida, Fall/Winter 2017

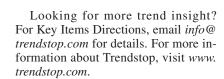
Cristiano Buran, Fall/Winter



Zadig and Voltaire, Fall/Winter 2017–18

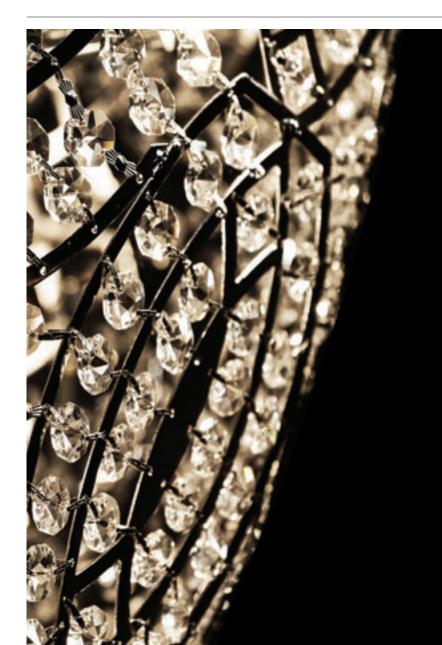
The Cocoon Sweat

Exaggerated oversized proportions create a cocooning silhouette that sees the sporty sweat rival the more traditional knit applications. Tapping into the trend for masculine forms, these XXL roundshouldered styles make an added impact in vibrant brights and bold graphic prints.





Milan Street Style, February 2017



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Cone Highlights New Developments and S/S 2018 Denim Trends at Los Angeles Event

By Alison A. Nieder Executive Editor

Greensboro, N.C.-based **Cone Denim**—the heritage denim mill with operations in the U.S., Mexico and China—recently hosted an event in Los Angeles to highlight new developments and preview trends for Spring/Summer 2018.

The all-day event was held March 30 at the **Ace Hotel**, culminating in a trend presentation by Amy Leverton, a denim forecaster and author of the book and blog "Denim Dudes."

Among the developments for Cone are new selvage denim fabrications, including a selvage denim made with **Cordura**, a high-strength nylon fiber made by **Invista**. This year marks Cordura's 50th anniversary, and

treated with a bleach solution to remove the original dye, which gave the end fabric a striated look.

On the horizon

It was a visit to Cone's White Oak mill that inspired Leverton to focus on denim, according to the forecaster.

"Cone, I would say, is the reason I work in denim," she said.

Leverton broke down trends into four categories: Tech Tribes, Decayed Decadence, Future Uniforms and Neue West.

Two of the trends—Tech Tribes and Future Uniforms—are inspired by streetwear and Eastern culture while Decayed Decadence and Neue West are inspired by the









DENIM DEVELOPMENTS: At a recent event in Los Angeles, Cone Denim highlighted new developments from the company's facilities in the U.S., Mexico and China. New trends included the "salt-and-peppery" look of vintage fabrics from the '80s and '90s; new products from Cone's White Oak mill in Greensboro, N.C.; and a new take on "Pinto" denim. The striated denim was inspired by a version first introduced by Cone in 1969.

Invista has partnered with several mills, including Cone, to highlight the fiber's key characteristics, such as resistance to abrasions, tears and scuffs.

"This was the first time Cordura was used in selvage," said Kara Nicholas, Cone's vice president of design and marketing. "We incorporated it in the warp and weft—so it's super strong."

Many of Cone's new selvage denim fabrics have the "salt-and-peppery" look of vintage fabrics from the '80s and '90s. In recent years, Cone has been tracking down vintage selvage denim looms from the 1940s, restoring them and installing them at the company's **White Oak** facility in Greensboro.

"It's interesting to bring that [vintage] look on the old looms," Nicholas said.

Cone was also showing a striped fabrication that Nicolas called "the evolution of Pinto." The new fabric is inspired by a fabric first introduced by Cone in 1969 after a rainstorm flooded the mill's warehouse in Greenboro. The water-logged fabric was

western U.S.

"We're seeing a really strong Western theme, very rodeo, very Wild West," Leverton seid

Decayed Decadence is the rock 'n' roll trend, Leverton said. "It's very Sunset Strip"

"This is a fashion-forward story," she said. "Gucci such an influence. They're driving the embroidery trend. They brought in the idea of kitch irony and making it fun."

Leverton described the trend as "bohemian glam."

"Silhouettes are very simple. It's about core five-pocket looks," she said. "It's highwaisted and retro."

Looks are embellished with embroidery and rhinestones, leather-inlay appliques, sequins and fringe. There are metallic yarns and washes and a continuation of the patchwork trend.

"Nostalgic patchwork is a denim trend that will not go away," Leverton said. "It's **The Rolling Stones** on the road in the '70s—just got back from Marrakesh."

Continued from previous page

Amy Leverton, author of "Denim

Key looks include '70s jumpsuits, the disco shirt, the "pimped-up Western shirt," embroidery and embellishment, and "flame accents."

The Neue West trend is also Western-inspired but takes its cues from vintage Americana, Leverton said.

"This is the true vintage story of the season," she said. "It's also about remade for a new generation.

The colors are soft and "sun-faded." Mid-tone indigo hues are paired with washed-out shades of brown and peach.

"It's a very desert palette," Leverton said.

The trend also includes embellishment in the form of chain stitching, a "slightly modernized" take on "naïve hand embroidered

looks," as well as sophisticated patch-and-repair surface treatments that emphasize the tactile.

"Remade is very important. Vetements really pushed that forward," Leverton said.

Key pieces include rodeo jackets, quilted vests, circle skirts and straight-leg styles.

The Future Uniforms trend is very much inspired by heritage but doesn't look heritage at all," Leverton said.

This is the new street active trend, inspired by the '90s and workwear and activewear brands such as Carhartt, Dickies and Champion.

"It's how the youth market takes the concept of workwear and runs with it," Leverton said. "This is our sustainable story, but it's also our

streetwear youth story. It's about looking at what you have and working it in a new way.'

The trend is driven by a need for versatility and a desire to "simplify their style."

"It's conceptual workwear, outsized silhouettes and extreme proportions," Leverton said.

Embellishment is kept to a minimum. There is some workwear-

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Greensboro, N.C.-based textile mill Cone Denim recently hosted an event to highlight new developments at the Ace Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

like top stitching, and some fabrics have a bit of sheen.

The Tech Tribes trend is inspired by Asia and takes a modern look at traditional craftwork.

"This trend is taking ideas of shibori and sukajan," Leverton said, referring to Japanese shibori dye technique and the sukajan, or souvenir jacket.

"It's about looking at the east, such as Southeast Asia and Korea, and exploring Western silhouettes through an Eastern perspective,"

Designers are taking a contemporary look at the sukajan jacket by playing with the positioning of the artwork and experimenting with scale, Leverton said.

"I'm loving the new way that's coming to the fore," she said. "It's taking the sukajan and making it new."

Kimono prints are important, as are traditional ikat patterns, which Leverton calls "a new concept of ombre."

Designers are also experimenting with the kimono silhouette and "turning it on its head and making it new," Leverton said. "[They're] messing around with proportion and shape and modernizing it.'

The trans-seasonal trend blends traditional techniques with modern, functional concepts, such as a coat made from a fabric that is technical on the inside but looks and feels like denim on the surface.

Key pieces in the trend include coach jackets, kimono hybrids, elongated shirts, reworked sukijan styles, the "lounge jean" and culottes.

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