



ROOMY FASHION: Denim trends are taking a major turn to baggy looks and oversized jackets. For a glimpse at Fall 2019 denim trends, see page 6.

Guess Partnering With Alibaba to Test Artificial Intelligence in Stores

By Deborah Belgum Executive Editor

The realm of artificial intelligence has become reality in the retail world with the new **Guess? Inc.** store in Hong Kong partnering with **Alibaba**'s FashionAI project to give shoppers a glimpse into the future.

The artificial intelligence–concept store features smart racks, smart mirrors and next-generation fitting rooms. It also offers customers mix-and-match clothing and accessories suggestions from the Guess line as well as items sold by others on Alibaba's **Tmall**, a business-to-consumer ecommerce platform, and **Taobao**, a consumer-to-consumer platform for small businesses and individuals to open online stores. Guess has been on Tmall since 2013.

"As technology changes how we interact, it also affects how we shop," said Victor Herrero, chief executive of Los Angeles–based Guess. "Our strong and long-lasting partnership with global technology leader Alibaba puts us ahead of the market in our industry."

Each item in the Guess store has RFID tags so that smart mirrors and smart fitting rooms can identify and respond to customers with any piece of clothing.

If there isn't enough inventory in the store, then consumers can go to the Taobao mobile virtual kiosks in the store where items are displayed in sizes and colors not in the retail location. Shoppers then use a mobile app to pay for their purchases and check out.

A rollout of the artificial-intelligence retail concept took place July 4 at the **Hong Kong Polytechnic University** campus on the sidelines of the 2018 **Fashion and Textile Conference**.

While the Guess store in Hong Kong might be up and running with the artificial-intelligence system, it hasn't expanded to any other Guess stores yet. But the company is hoping to roll it out in more markets soon, said Allison Shafii, the director of advertising at Guess.

However, at the end of the month, Guess will be piloting the **Alipay** technology at 41 stores in the United States. Alipay is a digital-payment platform that allows Chinese travelers visiting the United States to purchase items using their Alipay mobile wallet.

Recently, the Asian-American grocery-store chain **99 Ranch Market** announced it too would be accepting Alipay at all its North American stores. ●

New Proposed Tariffs on Chinese Imports Hit Textiles and Handbags

By Deborah Belgum Executive Editor

The latest round of proposed tariffs on Chinese imports has the apparel world wondering if it is time to shift its manufacturing from the country that for decades has been known as the apparel factory to the world.

On July 6, the Trump administration's latest set of tariffs were imposed on \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods limited to primarily industrial goods and parts.

Now the president wants to slap a 10 percent tariff on an additional \$200 billion in tariffs on some 6,000 items that include textiles, handbags, yarns, embroidery and leather as well as other goods including electronics, seafood, produce, cigarettes and beauty products. So far, apparel and footwear items are not on the list. But they could be as the Trump administration threatens even more tariffs in the future.

"I think consumer goods are the last things the Trump administration would want to put on the list," said Tom Travis, Tariffs page 4

TECHNOLOGY

Water-Repellent Textile Coating Promotes Safer Manufacturing Practices

By Dorothy Crouch Associate Editor

When trying to meet the demand for green apparel, manufacturers are often faced with the challenge of creating comparable eco-friendly alternatives to match the performance of products that have been identified as harmful to the environment or human health. This performance challenge is particularly true of naturally sourced textiles that are used to make water-resistant apparel.

According to Kripa Varanasi, who is an associate professor of mechanical engineering at the **Massachusetts Insti-tute of Technology** (MIT), many textiles that claim to offer water-repellent properties by their manufacturers don't meet the standards they claim.

"Most fabrics that say 'water-repellent' are actually water-resistant," Varanasi said in a statement. "If you're standing out in the rain, eventually water will get through. Ulti-**Technology** page 3



Fabletics expanding retail ... p. 2 Levi's revenues up ... p. 2 On-demand apparel manufacturing ... p. 3 Stitch Fix adds kids ... p. 9 Tags & Labels Resources ... p. 9

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Levi Strauss Expects Revenues This Year to Be Up Almost 10 Percent

Levi Strauss & Co. has been having a very good year, reflected by the fact that it now has 53 more company-operated stores than last year and plans to add approximately 50 more retail outposts by the end of this year.

More stores this year meant more revenue for the San Francisco company, which reported its second-quarter revenues on July 10.

"This was our third consecutive quarter of double-digit growth," said Chip Bergh, the company's president and chief executive. "We remain focused on improving several

areas of business, including U.S. wholesale, [business in] China and Dockers."

Second-quarter revenues for the period ending May 27 were \$1.25 billion compared to \$1 billion during the same period last year. Net income for the second quarter was \$77 billion compared with \$17 billion during last year's second quarter.

Levi's business was still dominated by the Americas, where second-quarter revenues grew 11 percent to \$670 million, or about half of all revenues. Womenswear sales in the region were up 9 percent.

The next largest region was Europe, where revenues were up 31 percent to \$367 million. That was followed by Asia, where revenues inched up 13 percent to \$209 million in the second quarter.

One contrast was China, where revenues were down 3 percent during the quarter because Levi's has closed more than 100 franchise stores in the last 12 months to concentrate on establishing its own companyoperated outposts.

As sales in Levi's jeans and its Signature and Denizen labels are robust, the company

This growth will be led by an executive

team that includes Nancy Arnold, who has

been hired as the brand's vice president,

creative director, and formerly worked with

Chloe + Isabel, Victoria's Secret and Ann

Taylor. In her new role, Arnold will report

to Chief Marketing Officer Kristen Dykstra.

After an extensive renova-

tion, Louis Vuitton reopened

its flagship store on July 11 at

South Coast Plaza in Costa

designed by star architect Pe-

ter Marino, who also designed the Louis Vuitton locations in Manhattan's SoHo neighborhood and Paris's Place

The shop's new look was

Mesa, Calif.

Vendôme.

Louis Vuitton Unveils Remodel of

is ramping up its marketing campaign for Dockers, which in the past has not been selling as vigorously as the other brands. "There is more work to be done," Bergh said, "but we are confident the brand is headed in the right direction."

The company was so optimistic about the first half of the year that it revised its full-year guidance for revenue growth by 8 percent to 10 percent in constant currency. "These results have outpaced the industry and exceeded even our own expectations," Bergh said.—Deborah Belgum

"Fabletics has succeeded beyond our ex-

pectations under Kate's vision and our new

team members," said Adam Goldenberg, the

co-CEO and co-founder of TechStyle Fash-

ion Group, in a statement. "And I'm confi-

dent Fabletics will continue on its incredible

growth trajectory."-Dorothy Crouch

An Optimistic Outlook as Fabletics Celebrates Five Years in Business

During its first five years in business, Fabletics said it has grown to become ecommerce's fastest-growing activewear label. As the brand and its El Segundo, Calif.based parent company, TechStyle Fashion Group, celebrate this milestone, Fabletics said it plans to add 75 stores to its retail lineup as annual revenues top \$300 million.

In September, the company is debuting a new retail concept launching in Bellevue, Wash., at a time when year-over-year samestore sales increased 20 percent at its current 24 stores.

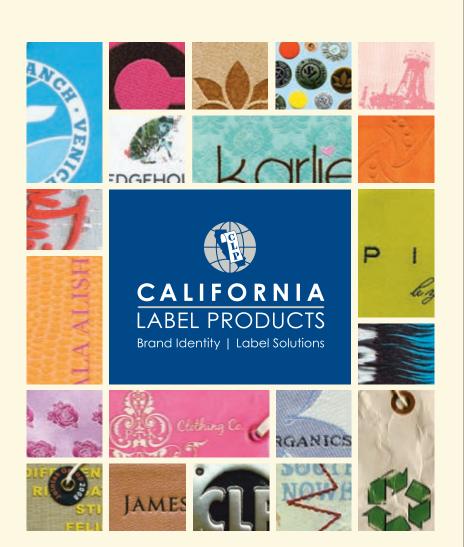
"We set out to create an inclusive community where women would feel empowered to live an active lifestyle," Kate Hudson, co-founder of Fabletics, said in a statement. "Five years later, we've done that and so much more.'

From its 2013 launch as a direct-toconsumer online shopping experience to an omni-channel brand that now includes

bricks-and-mortar retail locations, Fabletics has experienced success through various channels. While 25 percent of its VIP members have joined through friend referrals, the brand also allows consumers to purchase products in traditional stores without being a member

Through its OmniSuite POS technology, the company affords seamless transitions between benefits available offered by online member accounts and the advantages of instore shopping at any of its retail locations in the United States.

In addition to its growth in the United States, Fabletics is expanding beyond the 10 countries now in its European market, where it has enjoyed 25 percent year-overyear revenue growth. This fall, Fabletics will embark on its first international distribution partnership in the Philippines as it launches bricks-and-mortar stores, shop-in-shop concepts and e-commerce initiatives.



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South Coast Plaza Store LOUIS VUITTON

shop and resident-artisan studio.

Shoppers will be able to watch Louis Vuitton's artisans create and restore Louis Vuitton products at the boutique's workshop and personalize hard-sided travel pieces.

The remodeled boutique will sell Louis Vuitton's ready-to-wear, leather goods, shoes, accessories, fragrance and home goods. It also will be offering a large selection of pieces exclusive to the South Coast Plaza store.

Along with the remodeled Louis Vuitton boutique, South Coast Plaza is the address for a Louis Vuitton leather-goods boutique at the center's Bloomingdale's store. Another Louis

Vuitton leather-goods boutique is located at South Coast Plaza's Saks Fifth Avenue. -Andrew Asch



Johnson, Anne Cole and Catalina. Lunada Bay designed the swimwear for those brands. The In Mocean Group is the sole owner of Anne Cole and Cole of California.

For the South Coast Plaza store, Marino combined elements of Louis Vuitton's European history with a sunny,



airy California ambiance and added a number of artworks and cultural elements selected and designed specifically for the Costa Mesa store.

The new Louis Vuitton store has a completely new façade that is made of laminated glass and copper while inside there are three new skylights carved into the ceiling.

The boutique's square footage doubled to 14,000 square feet with a second floor. What is unique about the remodeled outpost is the second-floor work-

Corrections and Clarifications

In the July 9 issue of Waterwear, a story about Lunada Bay incorrectly stated that the company had the swimwear licenses for brands that included Lucky Brand, Betsey



ShareCloth Streamlines On-Demand Apparel Manufacturing

By Dorothy Crouch Associate Editor

For New York-based technology company ShareCloth, shifting clothing manufacturing toward more efficient digital practices is at the core of its business model. The 4-year-old cloud-based solution recently unveiled an innovative, new approach to on-demand apparel making.

"ShareCloth is a software solution that helps apparel retailers to start selling on-demand," said Sergey Moliavko, the company's chief executive officer. "It's a multipurpose solution to digitize the style after product development is uploaded to the ShareCloth cloud before the manufacturing process.'

With its on-demand application for apparel manufacturing, ShareCloth allows designers to share designs with retailers who then place orders with manufacturers. Only the requested number of units is produced. Once production is complete, apparel is delivered for retailers to distribute to customers.

"We are trying to support localization," Moliavko said. "We need to deliver capsule collections fast. We can't wait two to six months for the shipments from overseas."

Before introducing its latest technology, ShareCloth invited 40 women to test the new offering as an

on-demand shopping experience. 'We had 91 percent satisfaction on the fit and more than 89 percent satisfac-

tion overall," Moliavko said. "Out of 40 dresses, I believe only one person wasn't satisfied. Compared to regular ecommerce-we had no returns."

Using the mobile iPhone application, the subjects chose the fabric and color for a dress design. The women's measurements were entered into the application, and fit could be customized using a body avatar. Through the avatar tool, each woman created a dress size that more closely reflected her own body by uploading two selfies.

"The technology works pretty easily. When you have the solution connected to your e-commerce, if the customer wants to purchase a dress, we provide precise virtual fitting," Moliavko explained. "Once the size is validated, we share the size with the manufacturer, so it can start manufacturing."

During this demonstration phase, ShareCloth's on-demand platform registered a Net Promoter Score of 75 percent, an impressive accomplishment for made-to-order apparel manufacturing that was still in its testing stage.

At Hello World, a design and development studio located in downtown Los Angeles that has partnered with Share-Cloth, Chief Executive Officer Tricia Hoke specializes in guiding new designers through launching their brands with a focus on small-batch production.

"We try to consult designers who are starting their business or, in the midst of their business, we help them pull it together so they're not investing huge amounts of inventory," she said. "I am trying to build a self-guided way for people to come in and connect with Sergey, and we provide the physical parts that you can't really automate."

With the introduction of ShareCloth, Hoke hopes to promote communication

within the apparel industry to work toward a more collaborative environment. As apparel manufacturing transitions into more

efficient production methods, she recognizes the challenges of moving away from the old model but is optimistic about her partnership with Moliavko.

"People want to try this made-toorder, on-demand model, but they still have to go through a development phase and figure it out," she said. "It's a huge benefit to have somebody like Sergey's company who can install those APIs (application programming interfaces) with the measurements, send the orders straight to us and we're ready to get going."

The digitization of apparel manufacturing is creating an easier, streamlined process once designers, retailers

and manufacturers learn to adapt. By connecting with other technologies that are solving e-commerce issues, ShareCloth has created a more seamless platform for an integrated solution.

"We already have a plugin for Shopify and Squarespace, which are really popular for small brands," Moliavko said. "It can also be integrated into Magento for larger brands and any other commerce engine for 30 minutes' work by a developer."

The technology is offered through an annual \$1,200 sub-

TECHNOLOGY



Sergey Moliavko (foreground) with women wearing the ShareCloth dress prototypes

scription model, which requires a fee of 5 percent of the production cost and a 2.5 percent transaction charge for Share-Cloth's smaller clients.

Building momentum through working with smaller partners, ShareCloth is ready to expand and Moliavko plans to officially launch the on-demand product this September. He looks forward to showing how apparel corporations can also benefit from this technology.

"We started with small brands because we believe small fashion will benefit from on-demand, but at the same time, enterprise-level brands like Nike or Adidas will work to deliver more customized pieces to their customers," he said.

Considering the waste often produced during traditional apparel manufacturing, this cost seems small. Through Share-Cloth's more sustainable on-demand model, waste can be reduced.

"One of the key problems of the industry is sustainability," Moliavko said. "Right now, the world produces approximately 150 billion textile pieces per year. More than 20 percent is never sold."

When customers are offered a model based on virtual fitting that affords more customizable apparel, they are more likely to be satisfied with their final purchases, which supports a more environmentally sound apparel industry.

"The manufacturing flow is old fashioned for the 21st century," Moliavko said. "We need more dynamic technologies to fulfill the demands for today's customer of the 21st century."

textile due to pores blocked by the

liquid as it dries. To afford greater

airflow through the fabric, air is

forced through the small holes in

the material, creating an additional

manufacturing step and compromis-

ing the sweet spot where perfor-

mance, durability and iCVD com-

patibility could work together and

deliver the best performance," Soto

The iCVD method bypasses the

explained in a press release.

"The biggest challenge was find-

ing the water-repellent properties.

Technology Continued from page 1

mately, the goal is to be repellent-to have the drops just bounce back.'

In their paper, "Short-Fluorinated iCVD Coatings for Nonwetting Fabrics," published in the scientific journal Advanced Functional Materials, Varanasi, MIT professor Karen Gleason, former MIT post-doctorate affiliate Dan Soto, researcher Asli Ugur and laboratory assistant Taylor Farnham identified an alternative process to render textiles water repellent, or hydrophobic. Through its research, the team introduced a new type of coating to replace the potentially harmful chemicals often used to manufacture waterrepellent textiles.

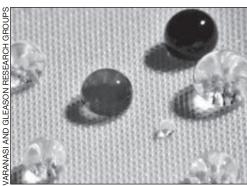
Citing the potential threats of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which are classified as long perfluorinated side-chains polymers, the MIT scientists set out to find less-harmful methods for protecting textiles from liquids. These commonly used chemicals can remain in the environment and human body over long periods of time and have been restricted in the United States.

While the chemicals are not made in the United States, according to the

Professor Kripa Varanasi Environmental Protection Agency, apparel and textiles manufactured with these substances are imported into the country. The EPA is aware of the threats surrounding the chemicals and continues to in-

vestigate their detrimental effects. In November 2017, California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) formally recognized PFOA and PFOS as potentially harmful and added them to its Proposition 65 list of substances that could cause reproductive toxicity.

By using a method known as iCVD, or initiated chemical vapor deposition, the scientists applied durable, conformal short fluorinated polymers stabilized



Liquids repelled by MIT coating

with a cross-linking agent to fabrics including cotton, silk, linen and wool that featured different weaves, such as duchesse, luxury duchesse, georgette and plain. These shorter polymers do not pose as great a threat as their longer counterparts, nor do they remain in the environment or bioaccumulate in the human body.

This iCVD process also solves another issue faced when manufacturing water-repellent clothing by traditional methods. Man-

ufacturing through the current standards requires a liquidbased coating that is created by immersing fabric in the solution, a process that typically impedes the breathability of the

use of liquids in favor of the application of a coating that is thin, uniform and can be performed in an environment of low temperature. Using this process allows a textile's breathability to remain unhindered, which would enable manufacturers to omit the task of clearing the pores.

In addition to testing water repellence of the coated textiles through an industry-standard rain test, Varanasi revealed that experimenting with coating also included exposing the materials to an array of fluids, such as coffee, ketchup, sodium hydroxide, and acids and bases. While the coating withstood exposure to these liquids, the team also wanted to explore how the textiles would fare over time after multiple wash cycles.

After discovering that repeatedly washing the materials wouldn't break down the coating, the team conducted abrasion tests through 10,000 repetitions, which subjected the protective layer to severe conditions. Upon examination of the fabric following this test, no damage to the coating could be found.

"Many fabrics can benefit from this technology," Varanasi said. "There's a lot of potential here."



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or call Jeffery Younger at (213) 627-3737, ext. 280 toms. "But since no one can read a crystal ball, the best bet for people to do is to take

Tariffs Continued from page 1

a look at their supply chains and figure out alternatives. I'm not suggesting that they run and change things right away, because they have to have a deliberately planned contingency and determine their own risks." For many U.S. clothing companies, Chi-

an attorney with Sandler, Travis & Rosen-

berg who is an expert on trade law and cus-

na is so attractive because it has a vast apparel and textile infrastructure that produces many of the raw materials needed to make garments, including buttons, fabric, zippers, embroidery and sewing thread.

"If people could have shifted out of China, they would have done it by now," said Steve Lamar, executive vice president of the **American Apparel & Footwear Association**. "There is definitely a strong vertical industry in China that makes it hard to move production of apparel, footwear and travel goods," he said.

Finding factories in a new country requires verifying they meet environmental and labor standards as well as produces a quality product. "At any given moment, there are three or four factors telling you to move out of China, and there are three or four factors telling you to stay put. Because of this, China's market share of U.S. apparel imports has stayed at a static 40 percent to 41 percent," Lamar said.

For **Stony Apparel Corp.**, a longtime Los Angeles manufacturer of clothing for juniors and girls, the move from China would be difficult because of the volume the company does there. About 80 percent to 90 percent of Stony Apparel's collection of dresses, T-shirts, tops and pants are produced in Chinese factories, said company co-founder Steve Maiman.

"We are always on the lookout to expand our horizons, but it is a slow and arduous process. When you are making millions of units a month, your supply chain has to be

<u>July 14</u>

Cabana

Collins Park

Hammock

July 17

New York

Pier 94

New York

Spinexpo

SwimShow

Miami Beach, Fla

Through July 17

Miami Beach, Fla

Through July 16

1 Hotel South Beach

DG Expo Fabric & Trim Show

Miami Beach, Fla.

Through July 16

Penn Plaza Pavilion

Through July 18

Première Vision

Through July 18

Brooklyn Expo Center

Miami Beach Convention Center

reliable," he said. "It is pretty hard to just think you are going to move somewhere else because of tariffs, which already are pretty darn high. They are 16 percent to 32 percent on various categories, which is through the moon. Unfortunately, any additional rates, in an effort to 'make America great again,' will be passed on to our shoppers."

Maiman points out that the same conditions that affect his China-based production are also affecting his competitor's Chinabased production. Everyone will probably pass on price increases to consumers, he said.

The National Retail Federation, a trade group in Washington, D.C., already has its eye on price hikes. It issued a statement saying the Trump administration's latest tariffs on a list of \$200 billion worth of products was "a reckless strategy that will boomerang back to harm U.S. families and workers. The threat to the U.S. economy is less about a question of 'if' and more about 'when' and 'how bad.' Tariffs on such a broad scope of products make it inconceivable that American consumers will dodge this tax increase as prices of everyday products will be forced to rise."

Chip Bergh, the president and chief executive of Levi Strauss & Co. in San Francisco, said in a second-quarter-earnings conference call on July 10 that he was concerned that many fashion houses would be hit with higher costs.

However, he believes his company will not be as greatly affected because Levi Strauss has traditionally diversified its sourcing mix so that no one country is responsible for more than 20 percent of production.

For now, the recent round of tariffs on \$200 billion worth of products won't take effect for at least another two months while hearings are held in Washington, D.C., Aug. 20–23 to receive input on the issue.

In the wake of the latest tariff proposals, the U.S. Senate on July 12 passed a nonbinding resolution to try to give it more say about trade penalties imposed in the name of national security. The vote was 88–11. ●

Calendar

Brooklyn, N.Y. Through July 19

July 22 Project Mrket Project Women's Accessories The Show Fame Moda Javits Center New York

July 23 Apparel Sourcing Texworld USA Javits Center New York Through July 25 Liberty Fairs Pier 94 New York Through July 25 Outdoor Retailer Colorado Convention Center

Through July 24

Through July 26

Denver

July 28 Westcoast Trend Show Embassy Suites LAX North Los Angeles Through July 30

<u>July 29</u> CurveNY

Javits Center New York Through July 31

ASD MARKET Week Las Vegas Convention Center Las Vegas Through Aug. 1

> There's more on ApparelNews.net.

For calendar details and contact information, visit ApparelNews. net/calendar.

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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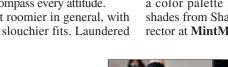
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Top 10 Denim Trends for Fall/Winter '19

From denimheads who wear jeans every day (and never wash them) to those who carefully curate and dry-clean their crisp indigo duds, denim somehow retains the ability to work for every style and encompass every attitude.

For Fall '19, silhouettes get roomier in general, with higher waists, wider legs and slouchier fits. Laundered

effects range from mid-wash blues to blackened fades, with acid wash making a splashy return to the forefront of fashion. Here are denim trends for the season, plus a color palette for patchwork blues and new, rusted shades from Sharon Graubard, founder and creative director at MintModa, an online trend service.





Dry Darks

Dark hues and clean surfaces look especially right for Fall, perhaps a reflection of the current interest in wear-it-to-work apparel. Unbroken deep color and lustrous finishes call out for precise shapes and minimal embellishment. Any tailored piece becomes more approachable, wearable and versatile when cut from this premium denim. Think of natty suits, classic straight-leg jeans or an easy yet elegant duster coat.

Sharp pocket flaps outlined with contrast stitching will emphasize raw denim's neat and polished nature. When denim is this clean, every detail counts



Broken-in Blacks

Worn-in denim gets an update with blackened shades. These graphite tones work best for streetwear looks but can go classic or contemporary when the silhouette is polished. Casual slatecolored jeans get an update

with seams and a

ankleskimming skirt in

lightweight, laundered denim is made even more relaxed by an elastic waist, which is a key detail for the season. As for denim ensembling, charcoal denim is cut into a fur-trimmed trucker-blazer hybrid and paired with skinny jeans ripped at the knees, creating an appealing juxtaposition of refined and rough.



vengeance, seen on the most forward runways. Worn with a dose of irony, the speckled surfaces look surprisingly appealing. Tapered-leg, elastic-waist jeans are a literal throwback interpretation, but there are also new versions such as streaky colors or rusted, over-dyed effects. The vintage-y marbled denim is also used for trucker jackets, bombers, shearling-lined coats and work shirts. While authentic acid-washed looks are key, there are also "faux" effects achieved with painted surfaces, digital printing and blotchy "bleachers" for both men and women.

Artful Patchwork

Color blocking with tonal indigos started a few seasons ago but continues to be a driving force. Patchworks can be as intricate as a crazy quilt or as simple as a single mended square. Pieced, patched, paneled or blockedany technique will do. Cargo





pants.

are made more eye catching with contrasting pockets. Non-denim materials can be part of the mix, especially plaids, menswear tweeds and rich brocades. For extra visual appeal, there are collages of bandanna prints, simple florals and tiny dots all in shades of denim blue.

The Reshaped Trucker

The trucker jacket, like jeans themselves, can be endlessly reinvented and still retain its iconic identity. For next Fall, truckers are oversized, cropped, drop-shouldered or hourglass shaped. Because this staple wardrobe piece is a favorite in all markets, offering it in a variety of fits is essential. There are interesting



Heavy Metal

Studs are the denim embellishment of choice for Fall. Placed metal nailheads show up in new pattern placements on high waistbands, shoulders, yokes, legs or sleeves. The metal decorations can be flat, semiround or pointy; finishes are silver, gold or brass and can be set with a stone or pearl. All types are freely mixed for an ornamental effect or used sparingly for a more restrained aesthetic. Just a touch of metal detailing will give denim an upgrade.



True Blues

Bright and clean indigo washes freshen up denim

for Fall. In contrast to the faded effects and placed

rips that have stolen the denim focus in past

seasons, this clean overall

together" look. The even-

finish provides a more "put-

The Big Easy

The skinny-leg jean is finally waning, giving way to a myriad of easy-towear bottoms. The newest jeans are roomy and feature wide, stovepipe

legs or billowy extralarge silhouettes. Ultra-long lengths emphasize the ample shapes, with cuffs that range from a single break over the instep to extravagant lengths that puddle over the shoe and drag on the ground. The cut of the leg can be straight, flared or pegged. These relaxed gender-free styles work best in classic washes including light all-over bleaches, mid-tone blues or dark and raw qualities





The Work Shirt

Work shirts are versatile contemporary options that function on their own as tops or can be styled as lightweight jackets. Point collars and chest pockets get bigger for Fall, becoming bold statements that update this time-honored item. Silhouettes range from hip-skimming military styles to finger tip-length tunics. Closures include snaps, button-fronts or placketed popover styles, and sleeves can end anywhere from below the elbow to knuckle-dusting. Another update is color; aside from indigo blues, there are olives, khakis, reds and earthy clay tones. Patches, embroideries, printed areas or logos offer a faux DIY effect, adding personalized appeal.

Indigo & Beyond

Next Fall's denim palette celebrates indigo in all its beloved variations. There are sharp and clear navy blues, dusky slates, graphite-colored fades and smoky blue-grays. True blues, conjuring '50s rockabillies, is key for classic looks as well as fashionable sets and new baggy dungarees. The lighter tones make a comeback for pale, laundered looks and acid-washed speckles. All the blues work in indigo rainbows for patchworked effects. As for alternatives to blue, there are warm red-clay tones, olive greens and new caramel-colored browns, used for over-dyes, streaky bleaches, colored wefts and sturdy canvases.





Colors by Color Atlas by Archroma

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hip-yoke waistband that sits at the natural waist. An



proportion plays, like a cropped jacket with widened sleeves or a super-elongated version with a narrow band hem. Colors for truckers uptrend, like true red or a fresh green. When the silhouette is so identified with jeanswear, there is leeway in the fabric. Wool flannel, leather or suede, lush corduroy or puffy quilts all bring a fresh point of view to next Fall's trucker.





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Simple Santa Barbara Luxury Inspires Catherine Gee Apparel Line

By Dorothy Crouch Associate Editor

Originally from Nashville, Tenn., Catherine Gee launched her eponymous brand two years ago with California on her mind.

Immediately she won the Crème de la Crème contest during **WWD/MAGIC**'s Emerging Designers Showcase that year. It was an honor that set high standards for a high-end line based upon simplicity. "I started the collection around the classic '90s iconic slipdress," she said.

Still designing around simple but classic lines, Gee recently launched her Resort 2018 collection, inspired by the Southern California sunshine and European vibe of her

adopted home in Santa Barbara, Calif. From her 1,000-square-foot studio, Gee's 10 years in the Golden State have yielded a luxury clothing brand based upon simple concepts of versatile—yet elegant—dressing.

"The broader inspiration for this collection was European and Mediterranean but also keeping in mind what inspires me for



quality Pima [cotton]."

For her Resort 2018 collection, Gee maintained her commitment to soft, wearable silks and linen pieces but also incorporated on-trend elements that still afford classic looks to be worn well after the season passes.

"With my collection, I pay attention to trends, but I don't let them drive me. For me, taking the menswear influence into women's fashion—the classic suiting isn't going anywhere—I think you can do that in an elegant, feminine way."

By using soft fabrics to create beautiful lines that complement the movement of a woman's body, Gee has satisfied a need for elegant clothing that transitions well between dif-

ferent social settings, making the brand perfect for travel.

"Ours is a very resort-driven brand," she said. "The people who are buying—whether it's the buyers, boutiques or direct-to-consumer—they're buying it for vacations. That has been really cool for me to see unfold," she explained.

> Through designing a line that affords versatile, classic pieces, Gee is able to take part in some of the most wonderful times of her customers' lives. Her retail partners appreciate Gee's ability to incorporate trends without sacrificing the style for which the brand is known.

> "Everything is very fashion forward but also very sleek. I just sold a couple of Catherine's pieces to a bride who was going to Greece on her honeymoon, and she couldn't get enough of it," said Hannah Adcox, owner of Tuscaloosa, Ala.– based boutique **Dukes Clothier**.

> Working with Gee for nearly two years has allowed Adcox to see the growth of the Catherine Gee brand, as the collection gains recognition among consumers. "Our customers have already started to recognize the brand in the store, and when we



get new pieces of it in, they recognize her name," she said.

Wholesale pricing for the Catherine Gee line starts at \$67 for tank tops, \$105 for blouses and \$110 for pants. Wholesale dress prices start at \$167 for slip styles while occasion pieces are priced at \$226 and eveningwear designs are \$250.

The brand has an online presence at *www. catherinegee.com* and is available at upscale boutiques.

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the entire line, which is the Southern California—specifically Santa Barbara climate," she said. "I am really inspired by the light in Southern California."

With an affinity for silk, Gee estimates that 90 percent of her line is made of the fabric. Using only the finest silk sourced from China, Gee manufactures most of her apparel in downtown Los Angeles.

"Silk is supple, soft and it's very elegant. I wanted to do something that was a bit more elevated and silk is my absolute favorite," she said. "Plus, a lot of my col-

lection—when you see it—is all about the drape and how the style hangs."

Allowing her creativity to drive an expansion into other fabrics, Gee is now working with silk-blended linens, which have received positive feedback from clients. She is also exploring materials from other global resources as well.

"While I do primarily make my clothing in Los Angeles, I have some pieces coming in from Peru that I make from very high-





Apparel News Group

Stitch Fix Launches Stitch Fix Kids

For the parent who doesn't have enough time to shop for his or her children, **Stitch Fix** has come up with a solution.

The online personal shopping and subscription service is offering a service for children who wear sizes 2T to 14 in a range of affordable clothes that sell for \$10 to \$35 per item.

A Stitch Kids package includes eight to 12 pieces from 50 brands including **Under Armour**, **Nike**, **Toms**, **Hanna Andersson**, **Threads 4 Thought**, **Joules** and **Tailor Vintage**. Stitch Fix is introducing its own brand of everyday playwear and essentials under the **Rumi + Ryder** label.

"At Stitch Fix, our goal has always been to help our clients discover products and styles they love," said Katrina Lake, the founder and chief executive officer of Stitch Fix in San Francisco. "Stitch Fix Kids is a fun and engaging way for kids to find clothes they love and feel their best in while saving parents time." Parents can manage their children's profile directly from their own by filling out a Style Profile and picking dates to receive Stitch Fix Kids packages. Clients buy what they like and return the rest with free shipping both ways. If all items are kept, they receive a 25 percent discount.

Stitch Fix was founded in 2011 on a concept that people would love to receive packages of clothing selected for them. Through computer questionnaires and the service's algorithms and consultations with human stylists, Stitch Fix assembles a profile of fashion likes and dislikes for members. The company later ships regular deliveries of clothes, footwear and accessories to its members for a fee.

Stitch Fix went public last year with its Class A common stock being offered at \$15. The stock was most recently being traded at \$33.87 a share. The company's revenues totaled \$977 million in 2017.—*Deborah Belgum*

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SEWING SUPERVISOR

YS Industries, LLC sewing manufacturing company in Vernon, CA seeks an experienced Sewing Supervisor. Must have knowledge of knit product specially T-shirts. Need to know Overlock, Coverstitch and Set Tape. Must be able to balance sewing line by capacity. Knowledge of T-shirt quality specifications and sewing methods of a T-shirt. Email resume to: lenab@ysinds.com or contact Laura at 323-282-2097.

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