

ELLE

**FREE
MUSIC
DOWNLOAD**
SEE PAGE 270
FOR DETAILS

THE ACCESSORIES ISSUE!

**THE BEST SHOES,
BOOTS, BAGS,
WATCHES, JEWELRY**

**THE
MODERN
WAY TO
WEAR YOUR
FAVORITES**

**PLUS:
101
GENIUS
GIFTS
FROM \$10
TO \$1,000**

JESSICA ALBA

**THE BOMBSHELL
IN BLOOM
HOW TO GET
HER LOOK**

**FASHION
HOROSCOPE**
**SUSAN MILLER
ON HOW TO
LOOK GREAT
IN 2011**

**BE THE SEXIEST
GIRL IN THE ROOM
TRICKS FOR
FULL HAIR,
HUGE LASHES,
PRETTY LIPS**

**CAREER SLUMP?
THE BEST WAY
TO FIGURE OUT
WHAT YOU
REALLY WANT—
AND GET IT**

DECEMBER 2010
USA \$3.99
ELLE.COM



FORWARD MARCH

The season's biggest trend? Designing like you give a damn—whether it's boosting local business or supporting trade and charity abroad

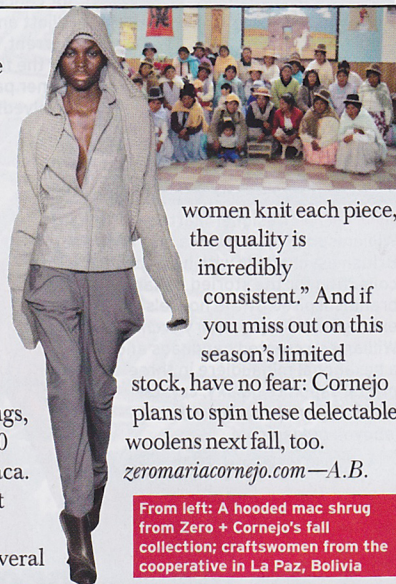


From left: Colorful yarn in Arequipa, Peru; members of Wool and the Gang in Peru; a knit bralette from the collection

KNITTING CLUB Sold at Colette in Paris, the Smile in New York, and TomorrowLand in Tokyo, Wool and the Gang is known by fashionphiles everywhere for making Grandma's favorite pastime cool again. But as the business has grown from ready-to-knit (sleek paper bags containing a ball of yarn, needles, and instructions) to ready-to-wear (covetable knit vests, sweaters, and bralettes in blush and turquoise), it has also seriously boosted the economy of two small towns in Peru. The Paris-based brand's founders,

Lisa Sabrier and Carolyn Main, source all of their wool, cotton, and baby alpaca from Arequipa, a small city located in the southern Andean highlands. "Everyone in the factory is considered part of the gang," Sabrier says. Once the yarn is spun, it's hand-knit by another community of women nearby in Puno, close to Lake Titicaca. "We are very close to these women," Sabrier says. "After the discovery of this crazy sexy wool, a beautiful story was born!" *woolandthegang.com*—ALEXA BRAZILIAN

SKILL SET "My fall collection focuses on the idea of heritage and the quality of items that are handmade," Maria Cornejo says. For select knit pieces in the line, the Manhattan-based designer took this concept a step further, working with a cooperative of craftswomen in La Paz, Bolivia, on hooded shrugs, scarves, and coats in 100 percent indigenous alpaca. "The yarn is delicate yet durable," Cornejo says. "Despite the fact that several



women knit each piece, the quality is incredibly consistent." And if you miss out on this season's limited stock, have no fear: Cornejo plans to spin these delectable woolens next fall, too. *zeromariacornejo.com*—A.B.

From left: A hooded mac shrug from Zero + Cornejo's fall collection; craftswomen from the cooperative in La Paz, Bolivia



Clockwise from left: Cassavetes in a Tucker jumpsuit; a bikini in Cassavetes and Basora's collaboration print; fabric inspiration; Basora at her studio in Manhattan

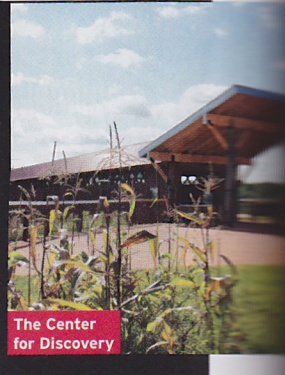
LOCAL MOTION Whether Tucker designer Gaby Basora finds inspiration for one of her whimsical custom prints in willowy trees on Manhattan's Upper East Side or from her glamorous stable of friends (including filmmaker and actress Zoe Cassavetes), she makes a point of producing her collections in NYC. Having worked with the same local suppliers and factories since she launched her line of silk peasant shirts, sundresses, and jumpsuits in 2005, Basora has become an active member of the Save the Garment Center Trade Association, which fights to keep real estate in the city's fashion district zoned for and affordable to the industry. "I like to have access to my product at every stage," Basora says. "Making everything in New York provides a much more intimate experience—and you're helping the economy."

Her most recent effort is a collaboration with Cassavetes, with whom she bonded over a long dinner at NYC's legendary Le Bilboquet. "After Zoe sent me books on vintage American prints she'd found in Milan, I knew we were on the same page," Basora says. The result is a retro pattern of orange and blue polka dots that will decorate limited-edition bikinis and jumpsuits in the spring collection. "There were whoops and hollers of joy when the fabric came back from the mill," Basora says. "And then they were off to the factory in midtown to be stitched—an incredible example of community spirit." *savethegarmentcenter.org*—A.B.



A mother, who is receiving a loan, and child in India; Louboutin's Peace of Shoe in pink

- Christian Louboutin's red soles may be synonymous with movie stars, but now the scarlet streak also stands for charity, thanks to the Parisian designer's Peace of Shoe initiative to provide microfinance loans in impoverished countries. The limited-edition silk peep-toes, lined with hand-stitched ribbon from India, are on sale at the house's boutiques in Miami, NYC, and L.A. The designer's charity of choice is the Grameen Foundation, run by Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, who inspired Louboutin to create the collection. *grameenfoundation.org*
- Magaschoni president Monica Belag Forman has been on a mission: to raise awareness and support for children and adults with disabilities ever since her son, Garrett, suffered a prenatal stroke. Through the Manhattan-based sportswear line, Belag Forman organizes events for the Center for Discovery, a nonprofit agency providing education and medical attention to those with autism and other health problems. *thecenterfordiscovery.org*



The Center for Discovery

Wool and the Gang images: Artistic; Cassavetes: Clement; Makeup: Len Lagura; fabric and print: Cassavetes; Tucker: Gaby Basora; fabric inspiration: Gaby Basora; Louboutin: Christian Louboutin