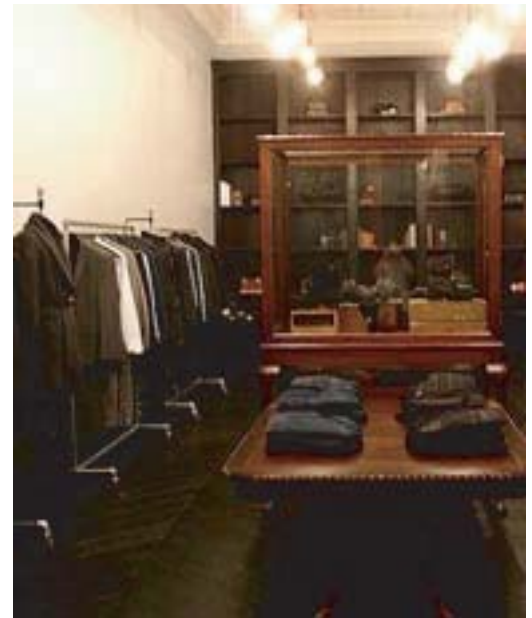


1. Menswear line Cloak opens store in Manhattan

Groundbreaking menswear line Cloak has finally arrived in SoHo with a retail outlet. Not only does this highly-anticipated store from CFDA award-nominated designer Alexandre Plokhov showcase his razor-sharp jackets, chunky sweaters and wool coats, it also stands alone as an interior design masterpiece. In step with the current retail trend towards vintage inspired decor, Cloak features antique cabinets, rich mahogany display tables and a floor-to-ceiling library wall, which hides a dressing room. In addition to his ready-to-wear items, Plokhov will launch Cloak Bespoke this Fall to create custom suits for a limited number of customers.

The entire Cloak collection can be viewed at:
www.cloakdesign.com

Cloak, 10 Greene Street, New York, 212.625.2828



2. Traffic-stopping Los Angeles installation

Through November, the Materials and Applications research center in Los Angeles is hosting an apartment-sized, outdoor installation depicting a "black hole". Constructed by architects Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues out of Mylar, Nylon and Kevlar, the swirling depression is accompanied by a white noise sound project by composer James Lumb, which causes the ground to vibrate lightly underfoot. Meant to inspire questions about the nature of space, the sculpture expertly manipulates the eye with refracted light patterns, which change by the hour, funneled through the delicate structure. A must-see for anyone visiting the West Coast.

More information can be found at: www.emanate.org



3. Lego commemorates 50th Anniversary

To commemorate half a century of creative building blocks, Lego is giving away a limited number of faux-gold bricks with purchases over \$50. In conjunction with the giveaway, the company has created an anniversary website with an overview of the products that have kept children and adults entertained for decades. Perfectly on-trend, the special bricks echo the gold dipped work of popular conceptual artists Ken Courtney and Tobias Wong.

Find out more at:
www.lego.com/eng/anniversary/default.aspx
and
www.coolhunting.com/archives/2005/07/decaurum_1.php



4. Color Lovers online community

The Color Lovers website is both a resource and a testing ground for designers working with color. After creating a profile, the site allows you to post and review color palettes selected from a list of tones chosen by the company. A great place to find inspiration as well as feedback on Pantone-based color combinations.

www.colourlovers.com



5. Old-fashioned cell phone handset attachments

First noticed at Williamsburg design emporium The Future Perfect, these retro phone handset attachments are making a splash in New York. Produced by design firm Hulger, the attachments stemmed from the designer's boredom with homogenous looking "teeny tiny silver shiny box" phones. Guaranteed to set you apart from other vintage-lovers, the Hulger accessory is available for under \$100 in an array of colors and styles.

www.hulger.com



6. Chains and multiple restaurants from celebrity chefs

For the past few years, the trend towards culinary proliferation in Manhattan has absolutely exploded. The inspiration seems to be Jean-George Vongrighen, whose large empire currently includes seven restaurants: The Mercer Kitchen, Vong, V Steakhouse, Spice Market, Jean George, Jo Jo and "66". Four other famous chefs have recently followed suit, with varying degrees of success. Tom Colicchio began with his Union Square outpost Craft, slowly adding Craftbar as well as four (and counting) versions of the casual 'wichcraft. Japan's competitor, Nobu Matsuhisa, added Next Door Nobu to his first eponymous restaurant and has recently opened an uptown version: Nobu 57. Another Frenchman, Laurent Tourondel, presides over the simply named "BLT" empire of BLT Steak, BLT Fish and the most recent, BLT Prime. Newcomer Zak Pelaccio, of Williamsburg's defunct and sorely missed Chickenbone Cafe, gained experience with the the opening of 5 Ninth in the Meatpacking District last year. His newest eatery, Fatty Crab, opened this week to positive reviews. As the foodie arms race continues, Manhattan culinary aficionados will surely be watching to see which chef comes out on top.

Listings for all restaurants mentioned at: www.nymetro.com



7. The ice cream lock

Anyone who has lived with roommates knows that the most commonly pilfered food must be ice cream. The constant target of late night refrigerator raids, a pint of vanilla or chocolate can now be protected with a new product from American ice cream manufacturers Ben & Jerry. The lock fits around the top of any pint-sized container and is accessible only with the user-determined combination. As the retail price of dairy treats continues to rise, the \$5.50 lock is a worthy investment.



Available at: store.benjerry.com/pintlock.html

8. Continual customization

Consumers continue to respond to options for customization. "Mass" has become a dirty word among the stylish, who look to companies like Nike to bring personalization to their products. This past Spring, Nike responded, opening an invite and appointment-only shop in Nolita, a popular shopping destination in Manhattan. The outside window is a showcase for some of the design possibilities. Those lucky enough to get an appointment are welcomed by an interior replete with interesting design elements such as built-in cabinets encasing blank, grey sneakers for fittings and computer terminals where you begin your personal sneaker design process. In addition, color swatches, material samples and reference books on shoe design are at your disposal. Shortly, Nike will introduce a lottery system via their website to make this interesting resource available to the public.



Nike iD Design Lab, 255 Elizabeth Street More information at: nikeid.nike.com

9. The New York Magazine Look Book

For those without a subscription, the Look Book can be found every week at www.nymetro.com under *Shopping and Fashion*



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