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MAKE SURE YOUR PARTY IS THE COOLEST
5 HAUTE HOSTESSES SHARE THEIR SECRETS



SHOP *ELLE* PS

THE ELEMENTS OF A PERFECT GIFT



1. Vintage coral-and-diamond pendant on vintage coral-and-gold necklace, both, Cathy Waterman, prices upon request. Pendant at Barneys New York, necklace at Neiman Marcus. **2.** Gold-and-diamond spoke ring, Smithwick Dillon Vintage Jewels, price upon request, visit smithwickdillon.com. **3.** Sterling silver shell bowl, Buccellati, \$2,900, at Buccellati, NYC, LA.

Editing our annual gift guide is always a treat; taking a sneak peek at the latest accessories and home goods will excite any design connoisseur. This year was no exception, and when it came time to create our ultimate wish list, we looked to the classical Greek elements for inspiration—fire, earth, air, and water. They're essential themes that have long held universal appeal. We selected jewels ablaze with color and everything from dresses to teacups covered in botanical prints. Shell-accented pieces and pearlized gowns were among the luxe sea-influenced styles to make our cut, as well as star-covered trinkets and gilded treasures fit for gods and goddesses on Mount Olympus. We've even got a few futuristic items, including techno-gadgets and sporty playthings. So sit down, compile your list—don't forget to indulge in a few goodies for yourself—and start shopping soon. After all, while these timeless styles are sure to last, they won't stay in stores long.—NINA GARCIA



1. Chain-trim rayon-and-silk dress, Rossella Tarabini for Anna Molinari, \$1,770, at Fred Segal Couture, Santa Monica. **2.** Vintage tortoiseshell-and-diamond comb, from D.K. Bressler & Co., Inc., price upon request, call 212-302-2177. **3.** Blue-gold-stone necklaces with ribbon ties, \$255-\$280, bracelet, \$230, all, Erickson Beamon, call 212-643-4810

Power Plays



1. Diamond-trim white-gold watch, Louis Vuitton, price upon request, call 866-VUITTON. **2.** Flower brooch, Louis Vuitton, \$1,280, visit louisvuitton.com. **3.** Dermo System smoothing serum, Dior Homme by Hedi Slimane, \$95, Dior Homme Boutique, NYC. **4.** Sneaker, Nike, visit nike.com



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See more at ELLE.com/Shop.

Natural Beauties



1. Framed butterfly, Deyrolle, \$175, at Bergdorf Goodman, NYC. **2.** Cotton skirt, Carolina Herrera, \$2,990, at Carolina Herrera Boutique, NYC, LA. **3.** Gold-trim wood cuff, K. Brunini, \$3,600, visit kaviarkind.com

COMB AND HERRERA SKIRT: XAMER BRUNET (STYLING BY MILANA MITROVIC); REMAINING STILL LIFES: MARK PLATT (STYLING BY ANITA SALERNO FOR RU BENNETT REPRESENTS); RUNWAY: MARCO MADERA; MODEL: COURTESY OF VERSACE

Going Greek

TODAY'S GLADIATOR SANDALS, JET-BLACK URNS, AND CRYSTAL OBELISKS BORROW FROM THE STYLES OF ANCIENT TIMES



Civilization studies: Printed canvas bag, Fendi, \$760, call 800-FENDI-NY



The Minotaur: South Sea-pearl-and-gold pendant, from Maxfield, L.A., price upon request, at Maxfield, L.A.



Athena grace: Silk-jersey dress, Prada, \$2,330, collection at Barneys New York



Carolina Herrera



Grecian urns: Resin vases, Oly, \$120-\$170, visit olystudio.com



Winged victory: Table light, Ingo Maurer, \$605, visit domusinternational.com



Trojan horse: Ceramic horse, Jonathan Adler, \$385, visit jonathanadler.com

ALL STILL LIVES: MARK PLATT (STYLING BY ANITA SALERNO FOR RU BENNETT REPRESENTS), RUNWAY: MARCO MADERA; FOR DETAILS, SEE SHOPPING GUIDE

Lady in white: Patent leather bag with braided handles, Miu Miu, \$845, at Chuckies New York, NYC



Crystal method: Vintage rock-crystal obelisks, from Nina Griscorn, price upon request, call 212-717-7373



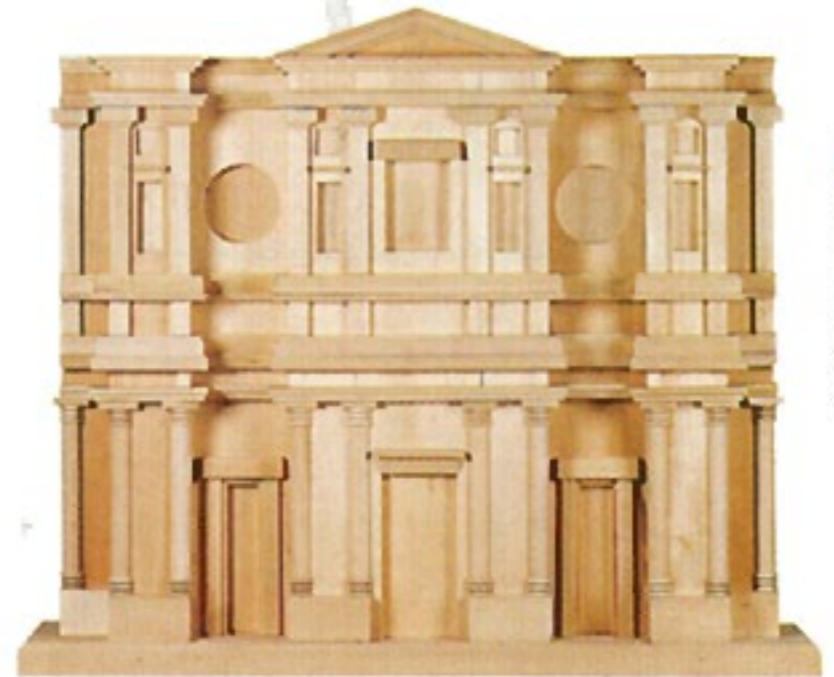
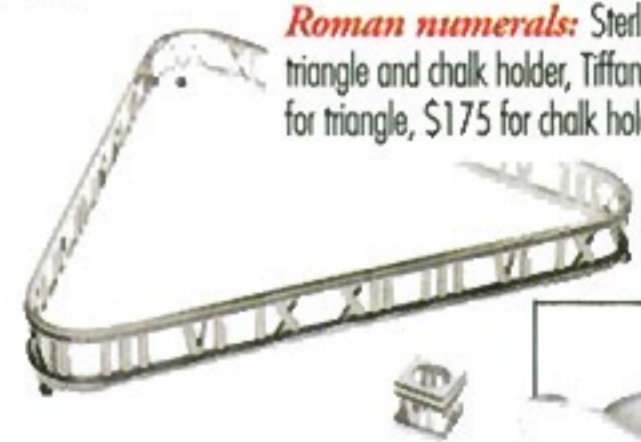
Gladiator's circle: Metallic python sandal, Givenchy, \$955, call 212-688-4338



Urn around: Antique vase, Renée Lalique, price upon request, call 212-355-6550



Roman numerals: Sterling silver billiards triangle and chalk holder, Tiffany & Co., \$1,500 for triangle, \$175 for chalk holder, at Tiffany & Co., NYC



Edifice rex: Carved-wood model villa, from Mecox Gardens, \$395, at Mecox Gardens, NYC

Form and function: Ceramic pitcher, \$450, at Bergdorf Goodman, NYC



Shore Things

DELICATE SEA-INSPIRED PIECES—FROM PEARL PINS TO SHELL-COVERED CLUTCHES—TURN UP AS THE SEASON'S MOST COVETED COLLECTIBLES

Pearls of wisdom:

South Sea pearl, brown diamond, aquamarine, and gold necklace, from de Vera, NYC, price upon request, call 212-625-0838



Coral reef:

Linen hand towel, Kim Seybert, \$20, visit kimseybert.com



Beachy keen: Diamond, pearl, and gold brooch, Aaron Basha, price upon request, 212-935-1960



Shell raiser: Venus comb on stand, from the Evolution Store, NYC, \$80, call 800-952-3195



New wave: Hokusai by Gian Carlo Calza (Phaidon Press), \$50, visit phaidon.com



Sea change:

Embroidered dress, Ralph Lauren Collection, price upon request, at select Ralph Lauren stores nationwide



All's shell: Shell and sterling silver hors d'oeuvre pins, from Nina Griscorn, \$150, call 212-717-7373

Horseplay: Metallic leather sandals with enamel and crystal seahorse ornament, Rafe, \$325, call 877-7-RAFE-NY



Surf's up: Adjustable polypropylene lamp on steel base, Design Within Reach, \$98, visit dwr.com



Water works: Pure-lead crystal bowls, Jeff Zimmerman for Steuben Glass, \$3,000 each, at Steuben Glass, NYC



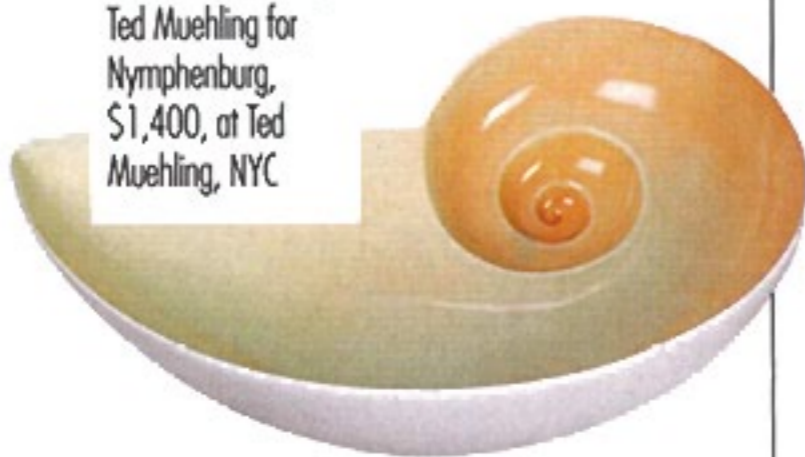
Pearl diver: Pearl and coral shell pendant, Mesi Jilly, \$525, at Jennifer Miller, NYC

Bikini island: String bikini with bead detail, Ralph Lauren Collection, \$280, at Ralph Lauren stores nationwide



Urchin accent: Shell-embroidered satin clutch, Oscar de la Renta, \$795, visit oscardearenta.com

Spiral jetty: Porcelain snail bowl, Ted Muehling for Nymphenburg, \$1,400, at Ted Muehling, NYC



Bay watch: Shadow-box-framed Tahiti shell collections, Oly, \$850 for set of three, visit olystudio.com

shell shock

Tortoise resurfaces as the season's most unexpected accent, turning up on everything from breezy dresses to wedge heels



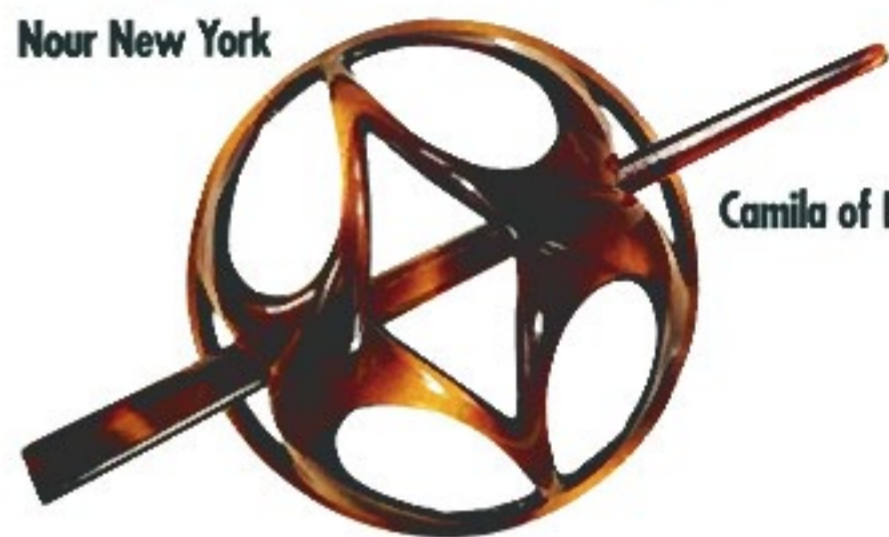
Chloé



Philosophy di
Alberta Ferretti



Nour New York



Camila of Paris

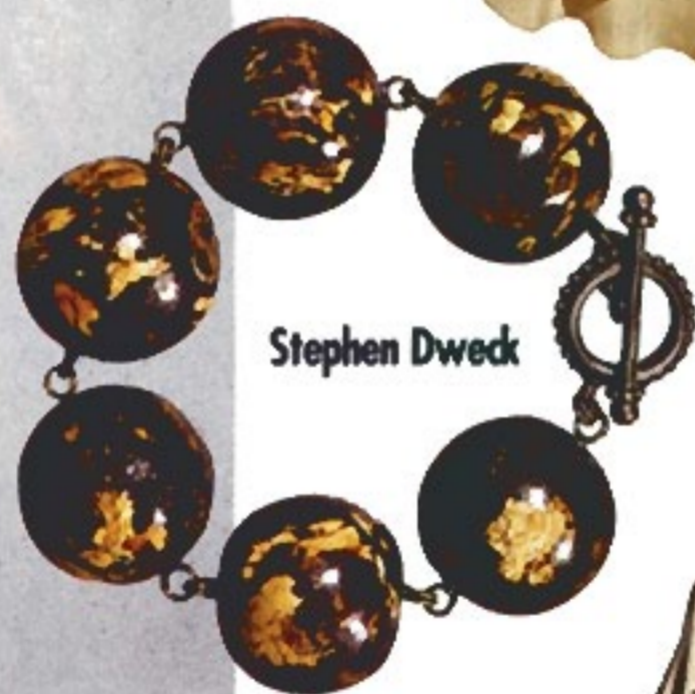


Kenneth Jay
Lane

Nina Griscom, NYC



Dolce & Gabbana



Stephen Dweck



Alberta Ferretti

Chloé



Soho

Alberta Ferretti



Alberta Ferretti



Clockwise from top left: Link necklace, **Kenneth Jay Lane**, \$250, at Saks Fifth Avenue. Beaded dress, **Philosophy di Alberta Ferretti**, \$1,190, call 212-460-5500. Sunglasses, **Nour New York**, \$198, visit thenour.com. Hairpin, **Camila of Paris**, \$7, call 866-4MYHAIR. Cigarette case/business card holder, from **Nina Griscom, NYC**, \$325, call 212-717-7373. Wedge sandal, **Dolce & Gabbana**, \$525, call 877-70-DG-USA. Sequin shirtdress, **Chloé**, price upon request, at Chloé, NYC. Link belt, **Alberta Ferretti**, \$375, call 212-632-9300. Leather bag, **Alberta Ferretti**, \$1,025, at Pacific Tweed, Carmel, CA. Thong sandal, **Alberta Ferretti**, \$475, at Chantelle, Palm Desert, CA. Enamel hoop earrings, **Soho**, \$1,375, call 800-699-SOHO. Amber-and-bronze bracelet, **Stephen Dweck**, \$2,950, at Bergdorf Goodman, NYC. For details, see Shopping Guide.