



Art Patron

Some Island has inked a two-year global partnership with Prizor and will become the official partner of Focus.

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Every Body

A new exhibition looks at Cristóbal Balenciaga's creations for a variety of figures, from Grace Kelly to Barney Melton.

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Partying On

Hit a party drew its friends to the restaurant Raf's, while Doga Cat and more turned out for a rave-like bash for Science.

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Science Class

Tory Burch secured the stunning, serene Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation at the American Museum of Natural History for her spring 2024 show Monday night and sent out a lineup that was equally so — including this futuristic-looking, chic collarless blazer with slit sleeves, super-short draped jersey bubble skirt, flat sandals and goggles. Talk about galactic glam. For more on New York Fashion Week, see pages 15 to 22.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MASATO OKUDA

BUSINESS

McQueen, Burton Split Adds To Drama At Kering

It's been a busy few months at Kering, and the group's to-do list just got longer following Alexander McQueen's break with longtime creative director Sarah Burton.

BY SAMANTHA COINTI
WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MILES SOCHA

LONDON — amid a frenzy of activity over the past few months, Kering has made another abrupt move, parting ways with Sarah Burton, the longtime creative director of Alexander McQueen who took the helm of the house following the death of its namesake designer.

Alexander McQueen, which is wholly owned by Kering, and Burton said Monday they were ending their collaboration after two decades and that a "new creative organization" would be revealed in due course.

The announcement was the latest in a series of rapid-fire moves at Kering, which is looking to reshape itself as a dynamic player in an ever-more competitive space and seek new avenues of growth as sales momentum lags at its flagship brand Gucci, Saint Laurent, Bottega Veneta and Balenciaga.

Kering doesn't break out sales for Alexander McQueen, one of its smallest brands, but it's likely the London label contributed to Kering's lackluster results in the first half. The brand also has a new chief executive officer, Gianpiero Tesse, who is under pressure to make changes. Over the summer Kering snatched up the high-end fragrance house Creed for a reported \$1.8 billion and then followed the deal up a few weeks later, agreeing to buy 30 percent of Valentino for 1.7 billion euros, with an option to take full control of the Italian brand by 2028.

As reported, Kering has been under pressure from activist investors to make a transformational acquisition that would put it on a more equal footing with rival LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton and make it less reliant on Gucci, which accounted for 67 percent of the group's operating profit last year.

Meanwhile, in May, Kering installed a new designer at Gucci, Sabato De Sarno, who'll be showing his first collection for the brand later this month. Kering is also in the process of searching for the successor to Marco Bizzarri, the brand's CEO, who is leaving after Gucci's runway show on Sept. 22.

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EXCLUSIVE

Dirk Schönberger Ventures Into Furnishings

● The former MCM designer has been named chief brand officer for Düsseldorf-based furnishing firm Vetsak.

BY SOFIA CELESTE

MILAN — Dirk Schönberger made a leap into furnishings with next-gen, comfort-centric brand Vetsak, but it wouldn't be the first time he made such a bold step.

Best known for his time as creative director at Adidas from 2010 until 2018, Schönberger made a strategic jump to leather goods and accessories when he took on the role as global creative officer of luxury accessories brand MCM in 2018.

"I don't want to stand still.... I love to explore things that push me and also teach me," he told WWD Thursday after being named Vetsak's new chief brand officer. The Cologne native commented on the similarities between fashion and design and the uptick in fashion firms venturing into the world of design.

Vetsak underscored that the designer is at the center of a nexus that includes influencers, artists, DJs, models, actors, athletes and consumers alike who are "now coupled" with his creative vision. "Vetsak is poised to become the next big thing in furniture," the company said in a statement.

During his tenure at Adidas, Schönberger brought on board high-profile creative collaborators such as Rick Owens, Pharrell Williams, Raf Simons, and revived vintage classics such as the Stan Smith sneaker.

"Collaborations are an interesting instrument and haven't been used that



Vetsak outdoor

much in this scope in interiors," he said, noting that Vetsak already has its eye on collaborations with fashion brands, musicians and artists. "It will be interesting to pick the ones who can influence from the outside in and that become part of a collective for the brand rather than just having a hyped-up name that just pops up only to disappear again."

He said he also hopes to create accessories and decor to make Vetsak more accessible and well-known to a wider public, especially in the U.S. where it recently launched, with a presence in New York City and Los Angeles.

Vetsak, whose motto is "making the world a more comfortable place," defines

itself as an emerging interior lounge brand. Founded in 2012 in Cape Town by two under-40 German entrepreneurs, the African avant-garde design vision is imbued with the principles of European luxury and German engineering.

Schönberger defines the target client as a "dub kid who has grown up" and is now finding their first jobs and furnishing their first homes. "They are explorers...in fact, we talk about the avant-garde nomad. People who want to push themselves."

"Having Dirk on board will transform how we 'dress' our furniture," said Max Gansow, Vetsak chief executive officer and cofounder. Gansow, who is also an angel investor and mentor to young



Dirk Schönberger

entrepreneurs and start-ups in Europe and Africa, founded Vetsak with Marco Heimann, the firm's chief marketing officer.

"Along with his exceptional eye for aesthetics, he brings with renowned knowledge and experience in the field of fashion — his addition to the team is a natural next step in the evolution of the Vetsak brand," Gansow said of Schönberger.

Born in Cologne, Germany, Schönberger attended the ESMOD fashion school in Munich. He worked three years as an assistant at Dirk Bikkembergs in Antwerp, Belgium and Italy.

He launched a signature menswear collection in 1996 and followed in 2002 with a womenswear line. Both lines no longer exist. He has also served as creative director of Joop.

Reflecting on his past and present, Schönberger said it is not goodbye to fashion for good. "This was a great move for me. I love fashion, and I am sure I am not going to leave fashion behind forever probably."

HOME DESIGN

Turning Magma Into Art

Lava stone creation from Ranieri's Odissea collection.



● Ranieri marks a new chapter, tapping Francesco Meda and David Lopez Quincoces as its new creative directors.

BY SOFIA CELESTE

MILAN — If stones could talk, the rocks from the Ranieri family's quarry could tell of the horrors of Vesuvius' famous eruptions, the bombings of World War II and the rebirth of the city of Naples.

Indeed, materials excavated from their land have been used to build Naples' Piazza del Plebiscito and revive the city's bustling streets into the industrial boom. Today, the family-run firm thrives on bespoke interior design and architectural projects with clients around the world, which is why it tapped designers and architects Francesco

Meda and David Lopez Quincoces to spearhead this new chapter.

The firm is led by third-generation family member Giovanni Ranieri from Terracina, a town rich with archeological artifacts that sits at the foot of Vesuvius. Ranieri's main focus is ennobling the essence of lava as a driving force for innovation in a contemporary age, as well as celebrating its centuries-old Neapolitan craftsmanship that has led to the creation of scenographic spaces, settings and projects.

Ranieri has worked with a roster of individuals and brands including Icelandic-Danish artist Olafur Eliasson, the Four Seasons Hotel Miami and Massimo Bottura's Osteria Francescana, among others. Meda and Lopez Quincoces, who were also appointed creative directors of the upscale Acerbis furniture brand in 2020, have infused their own flair into the Odissea collection, which is composed of complementary 2D and 3D elements that are versatile and can be combined and/or arranged in a variety of patterns. The 2D elements are characterized by geometric edges and a constant rhythm of points and parallel lines, while its 3D elements are identifiable by their convex and concave nature, and irregular nuances. Ranieri, who studied international politics and traded his work as a U.N. peacekeeper to relaunch the family business, said his hope, looking ahead, is for these tiles to be used for works of art and as enduring pieces indoors and outdoors.

"The approach was envisaged around a collection of products that can be used for tables or sculptures, and/or something that can be used indoor or outdoor as architectural tiles. The big 3D pieces can

be used for indoor or outdoor or for an individual piece of art that can be used in a showroom or in a lobby or big house," Ranieri explained.

The new catalogue includes finishes that highlight a fusion of minerals and magma. Ranieri's "Lunar Rock" for example, exposes the original foam of the material, as well as the air bubbles of magma frozen in the stone, which underscores the raw element and look Ranieri hopes to achieve going forward. "You know that polished, plastic look? I can't stand that. I love when the imperfections of a stone are evidenced and for me it's really easy, as I walk on lava every day. Naples is made of lava."

In envisioning their first collaboration with Ranieri, design duo Meda and Lopez Quincoces worked hard to uphold these principles and highlight the natural state of lava.

"We have chosen to emphasize the material, which by nature is never uniform. We applied the same rationale to the choice of colors, opting for organic tones to complement the story of the stone, something that cannot be more natural than it already is," Meda and Lopez Quincoces said.

Sector-wide, expression through bricks and ceramic tiles is taking off. During Milan Design Week, for example, ceramics specialist Mutina unfurled a structure and installation designed by Spanish architect and designer Patricia Urquiola for Mutina with 3D blocks. The structure was made of a brick called Jali, the basis for a contemplative structure, definitive of society's pursuit of spaces with a natural, sustainable and inspirational spirit.

Tiles as an outdoor architectural element was pioneered in large part by contemporary design pillars like late designer Gio Ponti whose passion for the material is rooted in his time at Richard Ginori, where he rose to artistic director and

was able to imbue his love of painting with design and decor. Throughout his career, he sought to achieve the look of dynamic, animated facades with multidimensional, iridescent diamond-shaped ceramic tiles typical to the sort of religious buildings he is known for, like the Catholic cathedral in Taranto, Apulia and San Francesco d'Assisi al Foppo in Milan.

Ranieri, together with the new creative direction, will unfurl its latest collection at the Edit Napoli design fair between Oct. 6 and 8, with a site-specific installation as part of the fair's CULT program, a dialogue between the fair and the historical and artistic treasures of Naples.



Francesco Meda (left) and David Lopez Quincoces