

FAVORITE THINGS

On the catwalk

The designers that fill brokers' closets

By MAGGIE HAWRYLUK

With the chaos of New York Fashion Week far behind us, allowing New Yorkers to reclaim the streets from the hoards of fashionistas that flooded the island earlier this month, *Brokers Weekly* decided to ask readers which designers threaten their commission checks.

Peggy Queener, of **Citi Habitats**, said she can't get enough of Alexander McQueen's mix of punk attitude and classic style.

"I'm in love with Alexander McQueen's gorgeous aesthetic. Trained Saville Row, the meticulous tailoring on his jackets is unmatched," she said. "Known as the 'enfant terrible' of fashion, he blends his own British heritage — think tartan plaids and corsets — with his punk sensibility — skulls and crossbones — to create clothes that are sometimes surprising but always sumptuous couture."

And his latest collection didn't disappoint.

"This fall his collection featured clothes inspired by Queen Elizabeth I that were so beautiful they were truly breathtaking," she said. "In his fashion shows he tells stories through the clothes in such a way that he inspires and elevates fashion to the highest level. One day I will own beaucoup Alexander McQueen."

Jeff Silverstein, executive vice president at **Century 21 NY Metro**, likes something a little more understated, so he opts for Prada.

"Simple, classic with an edge and cut slim," he said. "They use great fabrics and can usually be dressed down or up."

Citi Habitats' Angela Pontecorvo said it's gotten nearly impossible to have one favorite designer, and opts to look at others on the street for fashion inspiration.

"Today the market is very different than when I was a fashion designer for R.H. Macy's for such lines as I.N.C., Charter Club, Morgan Taylor and Jennifer Moore. We designed by demographics and understanding our customer base, but today it is disposable clothing, fast, trendy and we change our looks each day," she said. "There are the Ralph Laurens, Armanis, Pradas, DKNYs, Oscar de la Rentas that are the fashion icons that have established their look and style, but fashion is not like the years past with the newest looks, latest colors and can't-wait-to-view newest Vogue. Today the client sets the trends and creates her/his own looks and now the designer interprets from the needs/requests of the client."

Beth Benalloul, vice president, associate broker at **Corcoran**, didn't have any trouble choosing her favorite.

"My favorite fashion designer is Catherine Malandrino. Her clothes are very feminine yet stylish, and I love the fabrics she uses," she said. "For work, I love Theory. They have professional clothes with great lines and good style. People always compliment me when I wear their suits."

Scotty Elyanow, of **Citi Habitats**, likes the classics for many

reasons.

"Ralph Lauren and Brooks Brothers are classic, never go out of style, have quality work and are close to my office," he said.

Kristina Mata, of **Citi Habitats**, has many favorites for many reasons.

"My favorite designers are Alice+Olivia because they have best pant cut, nice dresses, great prints and design, Jill Stuart because of the perfectly made clothes, fitted jackets, and it looks sexy and classy and Carlos Miele for his beautiful evening dresses, nice prints and colors, falls and moves amazingly. The designer is super talented, plus the design of his store in Meat Packing District is distinguished — a real piece of art."

Although **Stefani Pace**, associate broker at **Prudential Douglas Elliman**, loves many high-end designers, she opts for just about every girl's favorite as her go-to: Diane Von Furstenberg.

"DVF works for my work. My business is the most important thing to me and being a broker means having to look good, having to run around the city all day long and working 24/7," she said. "Her designs are beautiful; they are comfortable

and can go from the office to showings to client dinners.

The dresses work for me on my scooter and then jumping off and showing my listing. Diane Von Furstenberg lets be a professional NYC 'it' girl."

Citi Habitats' Tommy Gunn uses his close connections to scratch his fashion itch.

"Most of my suits are Ted Baker, which my incredibly talented wife gets for me! She is the stylist for "Celebrity Apprentice," "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," and others," he said. "He has good suit cuts with European style tailoring, also has cool shirts with interesting details. I also like mixing suits with Alexander McQueen sneakers so it is easier on the feet."

Darren Sukenik, executive vice president at **Prudential Douglas Elliman**, loves Costume National.



Prada fits Jeff Silverstein's bill when he's looking for something simple, but with an edge.

"It fits," he said. "It's timeless and modern at the same time."

Crystal L. Green, of **Citi Habitats**, loves a designer that really understands New York: Marc Jacobs.

"I have his jeans and clothing, but I really love his shoes and, of course, his handbags, but unfortunately, heels are not very practical for real estate," she said. "However, I have a pair of Marc Jacobs flats that I can work in. They're two years old now but two out of every three clients compliment the shoes when I wear them! My current sales exclusive is dangerously close to his West Village flagship store which gives me an excuse to pop in."

Getting compliments is always an extra boost to any outfit. That's why **Phyllis Evans**, of **Citi Habitats**, loves her classics.

"For very dressy, I choose Oscar de La Renta and Ralph Lauren for the choice of fabric and flow. Both designers compliment the female body regardless of age and size," she said. "Also DKNY. Her clothing has style without looking trendy. Again, lines and flow and choice of fabric. And her clothing goes easily between work and evening."