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BOSTON'S WEEKLY DIG 4.25.07 - 5.2.07

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bites of

SPRING

You may put down the Hot Pocket.
Spring is here—and it's got a bunch
of fresh food with it.

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HEAVY METALS THIEVES STRIKE GOLD...OR COPPER, AS IT WERE P12

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A FREESTYLE P33

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dept of commerce

STYLE | MYRE DESIGNS | EATS | SPRING DINING | BEER ADVOCATE | LAKEFRONT BREWERY'S CATTAIL ALE

MYRE DESIGNS
Mmmm ... nubbly

STYLE BY CHRISTINE LIU

Swooping asymmetrical collars. High-necked jackets with hidden closures. Silky strips of goatskin hand-sewn for accented contrast. It's "very Alice in Wonderland," says Boston-based independent fashion designer Jess Meyer.

Transplanted from Los Angeles, where she worked in art direction and production design, Meyer further honed her skills at the School of Fashion Design in Boston and launched her company in 2005. The magic—sketches, samples, sweat—all happens in a sunny old-school loft studio and showroom in Southie. "People think I'm crazy, but I drape and draft my own patterns, and everything is manufactured locally," she says. Crazy or no, Meyer's efforts are turning heads; and her newly debuted collection for spring/summer 2007 (the third offering in her line) is no exception.

Meyer ventures that the inspiration for this collection might be the globe's warmer climes in which it's "so hot you can't breathe." (The asphyxiation of an average Boston summer? Sounds about right.) With natural fibers and organic colors, the overall effect is sophisticated, chic and edgy. "It's Grace Jones goes to Bombay," Meyer says. Shining example: a gauzy, puff-sleeved printed blouse that's sheer comfort itself—the perfect antidote for any swelter.

The collection also shows Meyer's obsession with incorporating texture into her designs, like mixing natural fibers with animal skins or supersoft leathers with drapings of raw linen. To her, the appeal lies in the linen's nubbly surface and its "weathered, beaten-up" appearance; the fabric looks like it "hosts a little bit of history," she says.

This warm-weather collection is Meyer's first to include dresses—a much-welcomed addition. Combining contoured seams and voluminous profiles, the frocks fit Meyer's fascination with the "interchangeable mix of slim-fitting and full-flowing." A raw linen strapless number carves out a sinuous silhouette, as neutral tones of the base garment sport contrasting strips of shredded lambskin and goat leather along the princess line. It's a delectable pairing of deconstruction *au naturel* and luxurious detail. If flounce is more your thing (and who could blame you?), a slim-topped party dress flares gracefully into a full skirt. You may now commence twirling. @

[Myre Designs spring/summer 2007 collection available exclusively at Turtle, 619 Tremont St., South End, Boston. 617.266.2610. turtleboston.com. Showroom appointments also available; call 617.464.4404 or visit myredesigns.com]

