

MANTÙ

22nd June 2009 - Interview with Gigi Vezzola designer of the CASTOR label MANTÙ

How would you describe the mood of the MANTÙ collection summer 2010?

The focus of this line is on the women who are going to wear it and much less on my design fantasies. So I wanted to understand the mood of the women. In which clothes will they feel beautiful next summer? It is a very demanding time so I felt like doing something powerful but at the same time everything has to be light. Fabrics, volumes and colours everything is based on this idea. The mood is relaxed but reveals an inner strength.

Any new tendency regarding the volumes, materials, colours?

The powerful image arises by working on contradictions. I start out with a sporty item and give it a feminine touch. And to the very feminine items I add a sporty touch. Shabby chic is still something I feel comfortable with but again I reinforce the contrast of fabrics. So I love to mix a crumpled polyester with a super fine silk and a print on gauzy cotton. The easy volumes are underlined by enlarged prints. The colours are strong but toned down in the combination with sandy beiges and white.

Which range of items are especially important for you? Again dresses?

Yes, dresses are important again especially as tunic dresses. My favourite dress has the shape of a sensual sheath dress but with intricate, irregular seams. I also focused on pants for summer 2010. With the new volumes of tops and shirts there are so many different ways to interpret the pants. Also very important is the reinterpretation of icon items like the trench and the caban. Here we focused on very modern ways of finishing.

The suit is something women need but somehow buyers have problems these days to find just the right ones. How do you feel about it?

Personally I love designing suits but next summer it is all about the small items. Women will play more with what they have and give it a contemporary key by adding something fresh. So as a designer I felt that I have to design single items that can stand by themselves and be combined differently every day. Also a suit has to have this playful attitude, it is nearly never a one fabric outfit.

MANTÙ is the CASTOR's own label that focuses on daily fashion for the high end customer but on a good price level. How does this influence your creativity? Is it more of a burden or also a challenge?

Uuuh, what can I say. A fashion show collection is more drama - you are allowed to invent a fairy tale. Plus you take your own designer personality very seriously. My work for MANTÙ is completely different.

In a way it is a burden because every single item of the collection is meant to be sold! So from the beginning you have this small scissor in your head because you have to watch the price level and the wearability all the time. But it's my third MANTÙ collection now and I really enjoy my work as it is a big challenge. I feel that we work on a very modern concept here!