The Look Of Glove

NEW YORK — Designers took gloves far beyond their practical dimension this season. Case in point: Carolina Herrera’s elbow-length woven suede versions, worn with a long, cozy scarf, fur collar and hat. For more cool handwarmers, see pages 6 and 7.

Web’s Next New Wave: Brands Moving Beyond Facebook and Twitter

By Cate T. Corcoran

AS THE SOCIAL MEDIA LANDSCAPE changes faster than Lady Gaga’s wigs, fashion companies on the hunt for customers and buzz are looking beyond Facebook, Twitter and blogs to new emerging platforms.

There is no lack of sites and applications to try, as the weeks and months bring scores of copycats or, in some cases, completely new concepts that use the Internet in previously unimagined ways, from the controversial Chatroulette to Foursquare to Foodspotting, a visual and local food guide and game that debuted at the South By Southwest conference in Austin this past week.

While the variety of collaborations and

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WASHINGTON — The National Retail Federation and eBay, long at odds over the scope of legislation cracking down on organized retail crime, are changing course and forging a strategic alliance. Called the "Partnership to End Organized Retail Crime," the initiative will go after thieves in both online and offline commerce.

"This gives us an opportunity to work in partnership, versus at odds, with eBay, which is obviously a very important player in online marketplaces," said Joe La Rocca, senior advisor of asset protection for the NRF. "Now, rather than working independently with each party...we can work together, with law enforcement and collaborate on sharing information and go after criminal enterprises."

As part of the partnership, which is being unveiled today, the NRF, which lobbies against organized retail crime in online marketplaces, will enhance their information-sharing in organized retail crime investigations, set up working sessions with law enforcement and other organizations to identify technologies to assist law enforcement in tracking the criminal gang, strengthen collaboration with the FBI, and evolve/expand their legislative proposals that have divided them in the past.

"This gives us an opportunity to work in partnership, versus at odds, with eBay, which is obviously a very important player in online marketplaces." 

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Strong Lineup Set for Beauty Summit

By Pete Borm

DESpite the Tenaciousness of the Global Retailing Landscape, the CEO Summit will go underground in Palm Beach, Fla., on May 10 with an unusually rich roster of top executive speaking talent.

"This theme of the summit, the eighth in succession, is one that focuses on retail transformation. We will take the audience on a journey of the subject of communicating with the consumer in the digital age," Kevin Kus, national chairman of Consumer Packaged Goods at Google Inc., headlined on Zappos.com will be on that panel.

The evening audience is scheduled for a night out, given by Mikhail Kusinovich, fractions and chairman of Rosco di Ciliegi, which owns ArticoGum and the Articol-Vesna manufactures -- two of Moscow’s top fragrance and luxury accessories retailers. In 2004, the company bought a controlling stake in Gum, the historic department store on Red Square.

The program will open Wednesday morning with an address by Lynn P. Kirby, president and CEO of Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance Inc., and will be followed by a Polish specialty store retailer, Wojciech Inglot, president of Inglot, an international chain. A perspective from India will be provided by Gaurav Mahajan, chief operating officer of Trent Ltd.

One of the most talked-about developments of the last two years was the introduction of drugstore-chain launch of prestige beauty retailing. The subject will be explored by the top three players: Shelley J. Rozenwald, president and CEO of NYC-based Ulta; Mike Bloom, senior vice president of CVS Caremark Corp.; and Joseph C. Maganna, senior vice president and chief merchandising officer of Walgreen Co.

The summit will conclude with a talk by Chris Sanders, strategy and insight director of The Future Laboratory, and a forecast of what comes next by Karen Grant, senior beauty industry analyst at The NPD Group Inc.

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Industry Meets on Revitalizing Garment Center

By Rosemary Feitelberg

WITH THE GARMENT CENTER'S REZONING still in a state of flux, tenants and other vested parties gathered at Yoohlee Teng's showroom Thursday night to discuss the neighborhood's inevitable reinvention.

Billed as "Urban Fabric: Creation in the Garment Center," the discussion was an offshoot of the "Made in Midtown" study, an ongoing project between the Council of Fashion Designers of America and the Design Trust for Public Space. Once that research is complete at the end of April, the parties aim to have a better understanding of how integral the Garment Center is to the city and how its strengths might be best utilized to secure its future.

One of the panelists, Parsons The New School for Design's dean of fashion, Simon Collins, provided the surest sign of confidence by revealing all of his 1,400 fashion students are being housed in the neighborhood as of September. Half of them are attending classes on the Greenwich Village campus, which will continue to be used by other New School departments.

Extending its existing Seventh Avenue location, Parsons has leased 46,000 square feet at 218-232 West 40th Street at West 8th Street. The school intends to use the Katherine Gibbs building, though the two schools have no affiliation. The School of Fashion is already using one of its designated four floors and the others will be occupied next semester.

In response to a question about the need for intervention to avoid urban Darwinism, Collins said: "We believe very strongly in changing the design change so that it

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