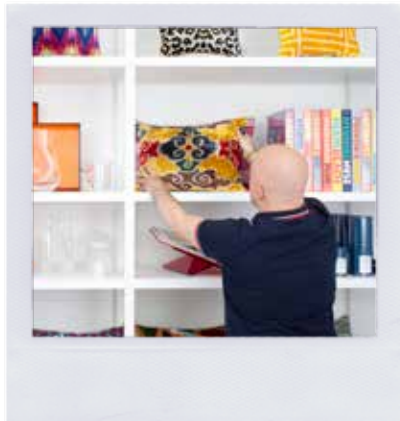


Hot Shops

Vancouver's latest and greatest retailers



PHOTOS: STEVEN AUDIA

Behind the Store-y: Details by Mr. K

After finishing school, Andrew Karrasch left Vancouver for Montreal, where he immersed himself in visiting museums, trying new foods and meeting folks from around the world. The city awakened in him "a real appreciation of different cultures". He landed a job with Esprit, a position that took him overseas, and fell in love with living abroad, travelling and working in the creative world of fashion. After a role with Benetton, he settled at Calvin Klein Asia Pacific for 15 years, eventually becoming VP of design and merchandising.

On every work trip, Karrasch built in an extra half-day or more to seek out the area's fashion and homeware hot spots. His Yaletown apartment now displays reminders of those excursions. "We have a lot of small wood carved things," he says. "It's all of those eclectic and special things that you've found—that's what makes a home." After taking early retirement at 50 and working for a few more years in Hong Kong as a consultant, it was time to return to Vancouver and figure out what to do next.

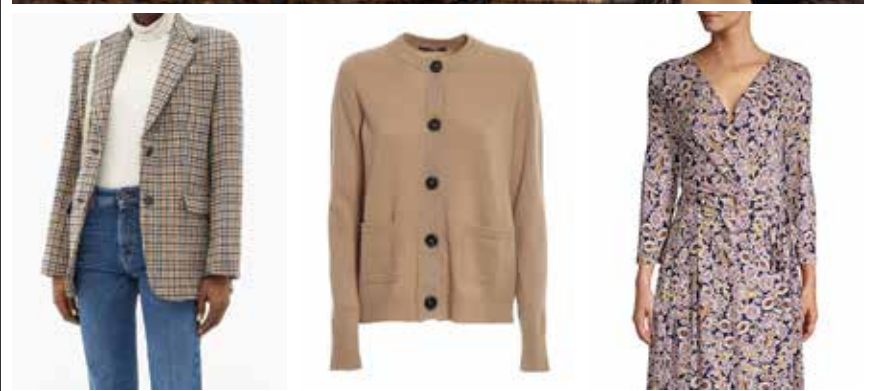
Analyzing his interests, abilities and passions led Karrasch to notice a gap in the local market: homewares. Big companies were bringing in high volumes of product, but it all looked the same and lacked colour, diversity and personality. He launched Details by Mr. K as the antidote to the prevailing monochromatic trend. The colourful store opened on South Granville in November 2020. Karrasch chooses every item with care, drawn equally to the item itself and the story behind it, "always balancing the beauty of the product with practicality." He says, "The beautiful teak platter on your island should still be able to hold fruit."

He encourages people to take the time to fully explore the shop, from the African wooden stools to the Mexican resin bowls to the Swedish/Indian velvet cushions. There's a fabulously diverse mix of items to peruse, including cool glassware and tableware, luxurious cushions (don't miss the cushion wall), throws, trays, home fragrances and more. "There's a lot of treasure and a lot of feast for the eyes," he says. Sourced from around the globe, the eclectic products mix "modern design and traditional techniques."

If there's one common thread that runs through Karrasch's life (and his store), it's being unafraid to try new things. "Where I am today is because of always going outside of your comfort zone." **2717 Granville St., 604-806-0510. Detailsbymrk.com** SHERI RADFORD

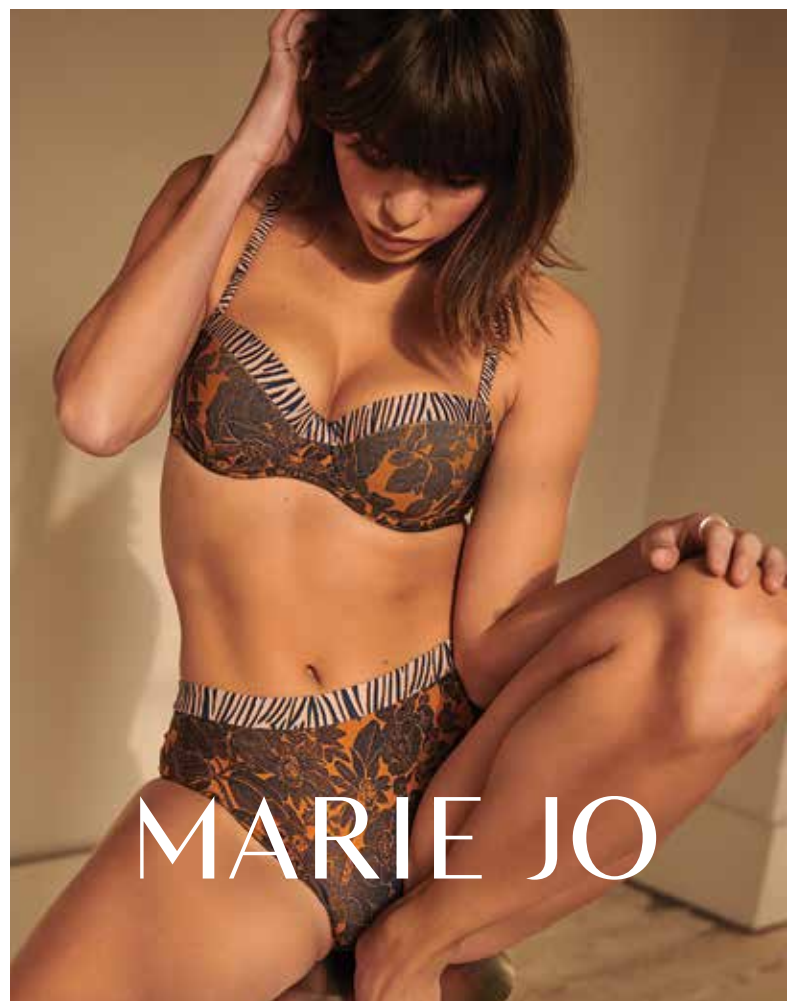
Max Mara, Weekend Max Mara, Blubird Outlet

With cooler weather here, there's no better time to reinvent your wardrobe—and we have the perfect way to make a stylish statement this fall. The Max Mara, Weekend Max Mara and Blubird Outlet location at McArthurGlen offers luxury fashion from Italy and the world at incredible discounts. Keep your clothing game fresh and easy in the most wanted designs from Max Mara, Weekend Max Mara and Blubird brands like Michaela Buerger, Jonathan Simkhai and Self Portrait. Need more reason to head to Richmond tout suite? From September 3 to 19, the Max Mara, Weekend Max Mara and Blubird Outlet is offering extra savings on autumn ensembles that stand out—buy three pieces, get an additional 10% off, and, buy four get an additional 15% off on styles already up to 50% off retail prices (doesn't include outerwear; some exceptions may apply). It's your best chance to snag the most luxurious trends, from cashmere sweaters to denim to wool trousers—and you didn't think you could fall any deeper for fashion! **126F-7899 Templeton Station Rd., 604-676-5460.** NOA NICHOL



Ecologist

Sustainable fashion brand Ecologist opened its new facility in Victoria earlier this summer—an integrated retail, factory and warehouse space that enables the ethical label to expand local production, provide transparency on the manufacturing process and facilitate direct connections between consumers and the talented people who craft their clothing. The multi-use facility, housed in an 1892 heritage building, includes a shoppable showroom in which you'll find the company's collection of outdoor-inspired apparel, each piece crafted with all-natural, biodegradable materials that are designed to stand the test of time (these clothes come with a lifetime guarantee to replace or repair, as needed, to boot). **2110 Store St., Victoria, 250-381-3178. Ecologist.com** NOA NICHOL



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