

Hot Shops

The city's latest and greatest retailers

AGELESS LIVING

Aging is inevitable; feeling old doesn't have to be. That's the guiding principle at Ageless Living, with locations in Langley, Victoria and, soon, Kelowna. Founded by Dr. Jean Paul Lim, a licensed pharmacist and an MD, this innovative healthcare and wellness clinic brings together the very best in medical-grade treatments, state-of-the-art technologies and cutting-edge scientific discoveries to help you achieve optimal results for body, mind and spirit—at any age.

The emphasis at this next-gen clinic lies uniquely on the mind-body connection, with staff employing a range of disciplines and approaches to combat the signs and symptoms of aging. Ageless Living, for one, is at the vanguard of longevity life sciences, offering treatments that proactively, safely and effectively align body and mind to improve symptoms of aging and promote the body's own regeneration processes. Key to this process are hormone balancing and optimization, wherein the body's natural production and supply is supplemented with bioidentical hormones to address symptoms like age-related damage. "Estrogen, progesterone, testosterone, thyroid, cortisol, insulin and growth hormone—these play an essential role in daily wellbeing and function. However, as we age, our hormone levels commonly decline," explains Dr. Lim.

"Until relatively recently, we had to accept hormone imbalance and loss as just another part of getting older. Hormone balancing and optimization can help treat much of what most consider 'natural' aging by supplementing—not replacing—our bodies' natural production and supply with bioidentical hormones. We've had terrific successes in women and men with addressing symptoms of aging such as brain fog, fatigue and low energy, decreased libido and erectile issues, as well as PMS and menopausal symptoms."

Biohacking is another tool offered by the clinic; a term that's often used and rarely understood, biohacking works with your natural biology to exploit the regenerative potential in the mind and body. "Simply put, biohacking is the application of science to wellness to become the best possible version of yourself at any age," Dr. Lim says. "Our in-house Biohacking Centre gives patients access to state-of-the-art treatments for weight loss, strength, muscle gains and age management. The goal is to transform your body so you can train harder and recover more quickly, feel energized, find better mental focus and be more productive, all while looking and feeling younger."

Ageless Living's team of certified, experienced technicians also offers a wide range of subtle skin-rejuvenation treatments and plans for both cosmetic

enhancements and medical needs of the body and the face—think Botox, soft-tissue fillers, peels, dermaplaning, laser hair removal, IPL and award-winning Cosmeceuticals lines. Keen to find out what wonders Ageless Living can do for you? The clinic offers a quick and easy-to-use preliminary online hormone test where prospective patients can find treatment options for their symptoms and start the discussion of optimized, holistic health.

415-20178 96th Ave., Langley, 236-326-6830; 1-101 Burnside Rd. W., Victoria, 250-590-5787; and coming soon, 102-3320 Richter St., Kelowna. Agelessliving.com NOA NICHOL



GUCCI

What better way to tour Gucci's updated, larger, but still located in the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver boutique than with brand devotee and Kalu Interiors principal Aleem Kassam? Here's the always-fashionable award-winning designer's take on a fresh and truly exciting high-end retail experience.

We understand that you were among the first to visit the new Gucci store on opening weekend; what were your initial impressions?

My reaction upon walking in was, "Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore!" The expansion and reopening of this location has been something I've been anticipating for two-plus years, ever since receiving "inside intel" that this would be happening. Once the relief set in (i.e., the feeling of "There's no place like home!"), I was taken aback at the sheer size and scale of this new flagship store—now the largest of its kind in Canada! At more than 10,000 square feet, I was excited to see (FINALLY) a true range of the complete product offerings from across the variety of collections, including men's and women's ready-to-wear; a much-more expansive offering of handbags and shoes, home accessories and even products for your furry friends from the Gucci pet collection! It's a truly immersive Gucci shopping experience under one roof.

Design wise, what struck you as particularly unique, special and even functional about the new flagship? Did any design elements stand out to you?

I was immediately reminded of some of my absolute favourite (read: iconic) Gucci locations around the world, including New York Fifth Avenue, Gucci Osteria of Beverly Hills and even Florence! Since being appointed as creative director in 2015, Alessandro Michele has completely reimagined the world of Gucci—a fact that's completely obvious in this latest boutique in Vancouver. Opulence is definitely the word that best summarizes the design, in both the craftsmanship and fine details. You'll notice an eclectic mix of patterns and inlays in everything from the

flooring to the furniture, including a mixed use of materials—think chevron wood with geometrically laid marble stones, and a crossover of textures in fabrics—all of which translate directly back to the fashion itself. The palette is a range of jewel tones, from rose-pink hues to peacock blues to emerald greens. If I had to pick a favourite design "story" within this space, it would be the treatment of the structural columns, which were upholstered in pleated pink velvet and "hugged" on one side by custom-fit, curved, brass-and-glass up-lit product shelving, with a full-circle tufted seat on the other ... I could go on about this particular little corner. They say the devil is in the details, but I'd say it's the designer in this case!

Did you leave with anything new that day?!

That is the question isn't it?! Luckily, my partner, Victor, was with me, so I have no purchases to hide and can be completely transparent! I had already pre-ordered my Adidas X Gucci collab crossbody bag, which I was able to pick up, while also snatching up a wallet that Victor had been eyeing (I'm so generous!), and an emerald-green enameled Marmont belt that I had been eyeing myself!

So, why do you think clients will love shopping this new boutique?

One would be hard-pressed to step foot into this boutique and not be inspired. Whether inspired, period, or inspired to shop, the immersive world of Gucci is one of creativity, aspiration and escapism. This brand, and this boutique, are unique to what you'll find not only in Vancouver but on the retail scene around the world. That's one of the reasons I've always remained a loyal Gucci collector: it's not just about the product, but also the experience. This space marries interior design perfectly to the brand's identity, while product is integrated and curated in thoughtful ways that don't feel contrived or abrupt. Seamless is the word to describe this. Dreamy design paired with seamless shopping and always-impeccable service—if you ask me, that's the epitome of luxury shopping. **900 W. Georgia St., 604-488-0320. Gucci.com** NOA NICHOL

CASHMERE COLLECTION

Fashion expert Jay Manuel constantly juggles dozens of projects, from TV appearances to philanthropic endeavours to his fledgling career as a novelist. The former creative director of *America's Next Top Model* and host of *Canada's Next Top Model* also dabbles in lines of clothing and cosmetics.

Despite how busy Manuel is, when the folks behind the Cashmere Collection 2022 phoned, he didn't hesitate. "When I received the call that they wanted me to step on board as curator this year, there wasn't a decision for me," he says. "It was an absolute yes."

This is the 19th year that Cashmere has sponsored the charitable event, which raises both funds and awareness around breast cancer. It's a cause that hits close to home for Manuel, who has a family member undergoing treatment right now.

Each year, Cashmere invites a small roster of Canadian designers to create couture pieces using bathroom tissue. "Sometimes people think, 'Are they working with those individual little sheets?'" Manuel says with a laugh. "They are not." He adds, "This is the first time the designers are working with the new-and-improved Cashmere UltraLuxe bathroom tissue, so it's the softest ever."

The large bolts of raw material may be easier to manipulate than tiny squares, but the luxurious material is still fragile, requiring enormous ingenuity on the part of the "young creative visionaries," as Manuel refers to the 12 designers. "What they have to do and create is truly extraordinary," he says. "I think people will be jaw-droppingly impressed during the reveal."

That big reveal takes place on September 22 at a runway show in Toronto. At the by-invitation-only event, the VIP audience will see how the designers have interpreted this year's theme, *Celestial Awakening: A Celebration of Strength, Hope and Compassion*. Manuel explains that the theme allowed the designers to explore the sun, moon and stars, with nods to astrology and all of the challenges that everyone has experienced globally

over the past couple of years. "I think it all spawned off of this collective emotion that we're all going through," he says. "We had to find strength and hope and compassion for each other."

Over the past 18 years, more than 230 designers have been invited to dream up original couture for the Cashmere Collection. This year's creatives hail from several provinces, with one each from British Columbia, Alberta and Nova Scotia; two from Quebec; and the remaining seven from Ontario. "We have 12 very diverse, unique individual designers from across Canada coming together," says Manuel. "They're very talented and we're really excited to feature them."

But he resists choosing a favourite among the dozen. "They all took their own vision to create this out-of-the-world couture piece," he says. "They went full-on for the drama, which I'm here for." To Manuel, the Cashmere Collection is, ultimately, the perfect blend of raising awareness around breast cancer and highlighting brilliant young Canadian designers. "It's just truly my pleasure to be a part of this."

When asked what garment he would design using bathroom tissue if given the opportunity, Manuel has to think about it for a moment. "Since we're featuring women's couture, I would probably try and create something that a man could wear, like a really cool jacket," he says. "I could wear it to the collection reveal."

Canadians can get involved by voting for their favourite of the 12 couture creations at the CashmereVoteCouture.com website, which goes live on September 23. For every vote, Cashmere will donate \$1 (to a maximum of \$15,000) to the Canadian Cancer Society and Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation in the winning designer's name. Plus, specially marked packages of Cashmere UltraLuxe bathroom tissue will be available throughout October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For each package sold, a 25-cent donation (to a maximum of \$65,000) will go to the two charities. **Cashmere.ca** SHERI RADFORD

