

MAY-JUNE 2012

VERANDA

AMERICAN CLASSICS



GYPSY SPIRIT

FASHION DESIGNER
LISA FINE
UNLEASHES THE
INNATE SPLENDOR
OF FAR EASTERN
PATTERNS—
THEN KICKS THEM
UP A NOTCH.



Lisa Fine in Paris, with her beloved travel companion, Kashgar. She's wearing an Irving & Fine Lucknow tunic and Kutch coat, with Bobbi Brown lipstick in Nude.

Whenever fashion designer Lisa Fine travels—which is widely and often—she buys a good luck talisman native to her destination and adds it to her ever-growing charm necklace. “I’m slightly superstitious!” she laughs in her big, infectious manner, rattling off a few of her amulets (an evil eye from Cairo, a Ganesh from Jaipur, a “pre-Colombian little something” from Cartagena).

A true citizen of the world, this Mississippi native can't be pinned to any one place, though these days she calls Dallas and Manhattan home base. Equal



MY FAVORITE THINGS

BOBBI BROWN LIPSTICK IN “BROWNIE” The ideal natural. I put it on whenever I’m feeling insecure. **VINTAGE CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN PLATFORMS** The hammered steel reminds me of Turkish harem shoes! **VINTAGE MEISSEN L’INDE CHINA** I adore patterned plates, and this is the perfect mix of East and West.

parts nomad and fashionista, she is a stylish swashbuckler of the most fabulous sort. Her passion for patterns brings her to the farthest reaches of South Asia, East Asia, and Africa, where she finds inspiration in native prints and tweaks them with just enough panache to make them impossibly chic—bohemian without the patchouli.

Fine channels her bounty in two separate but related directions. Irving & Fine, the clothing collection she designs with her friend Carolina Irving, evokes a high-style pirate queen: breezy peasant blouses, gorgeously embroidered coats, silk dresses and caftans. Then there's her own line of fabrics for the home, Lisa Fine Textiles, a veritable treasure chest of exotic patterns in updated palettes, from dusky green polka-dots to pale blue block prints. "Tie-dyes, reverse dyes, ikats, raffias, raw linens—the world is a bottomless well of beauty. It just never stops," she marvels.

As one might hope, this intrepid explorer prioritizes individuality over trends: "Our clothes are more about feeling and looking pretty—a nice fit, a flattering neckline framing your face—than they are about 'fashion.'" They travel well, too. That leopard-print coat? "It doesn't wrinkle, it goes with everything. You can dress it up, down, wear it any season—it lives in my suitcase." □

PRODUCED BY EUGENIA SANTIESTEBAN SOTO
WRITTEN BY KATE BOLICK



“THE WORLD IS A BOTTOMLESS WELL OF BEAUTY—IT JUST NEVER STOPS.”

MY FAVORITE THINGS

MY CHARM NECKLACE I add to it whenever I go anywhere new.
KOTUR WICKER CLUTCH It fits my cell phone, car keys, and lipstick—all I need when I go out.
MY GOLD HOOP EARRINGS I've worn hoops since I was thirteen; these are tarnished golden pink, not the shiny kind I wore then.
IRVING & FINE KUTCH COAT The perfect travel go-to, great with a little black dress or jeans.
MAGNOLIA Growing up in Mississippi we had a big magnolia tree in the yard—I can't ever be objective about their beauty or smell.
PASSENGER TO TEHERAN, BY VITA SACKVILLE-WEST Travel books from the early twentieth century, before the world was commercialized, are mesmerizing.
LISA FINE TEXTILES Egyptian chevron and deep pink—love them.
VINTAGE YSL SKIRT My favorite piece of clothing ever. It makes me feel like a flamenco dancer.
FREDERIC MALLE PERFUME IN "LIPSTICK ROSE" Like the scent of my mother's purse when I was a little girl.
For shopping guide, see Sourcebook, page 162.

OPENING PAGE: PORTRAIT: MIGUEL FLORES; VANNIA PLATE: CHRISTIE'S IMAGES LTD. 2010; SHOES: PHILIP FRIEDMAN/STUDIO D. THIS PAGE: NECKLACE, CLUTCH, EARRINGS, COAT, SKIRT, AND FABRICS: PHILIP FRIEDMAN/STUDIO D.