

# EXCLUSIVE: VERA, ST. JOHN IN DESIGN TALKS

By Lisa Lockwood

**NEW YORK** — First Angelina, and now Vera?

St. John continues to surprise as it rushes to reinvent itself, and the latest development is that

Vera Wang is said to be in intense negotiations to become creative director of the 40-year-old Irvine, Calif.-based apparel firm.

“We don’t comment on rumors,” a Wang spokeswoman said Friday.

Richard Cohen, chief executive officer of St. John, sidestepped the subject of Wang altogether and threw his support behind the company’s design consultant, Tim

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# WWD WEEKEND

## Red Alert

The New York season has started — with controversies right out of the gate. Early dates and late deliveries have caused Proenza Schouler to reschedule from Monday to Thursday, and Marc Jacobs, from 8 to 9:30 on Monday night (see page 14), with just about everybody else complaining plenty. In addition, the already crammed schedule — with late additions daily — has come under criticism. Some established designers resent the circus atmosphere yet hesitate to speak out, lest they be branded antinewcomer. But hey, that’s entertainment. Happily, there’s no controversy about a pretty girl in a pretty dress, especially for a good cause. Here, Lindsay Lohan in Francisco Costa’s scarlet entry for Calvin Klein, flashing a little bling at The Heart Truth Red Dress benefit fashion show on Friday.

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"...She retains this sign of subjectivity, and her various expressions and postures seem to convey different moods — mysterious, contemplative, intense." — **Francisco Costa, Calvin Klein**



"Delightfully dishabile."  
 — **Christopher Crawford and Angela Deane, Christopher Deane**



## "Shanghai Gesture." — Vivienne Tam

► "Our voyage for fall brought us from the American romantic postwar aesthetic of last season into the darkness and decadence of prewar Weimar Berlin."  
 — **Brian Wolk and Claude Morais, Ruffian**



◀ "The collection is inspired by the time in American history when the jazz and blues movement ushered in a new sophistication born from the artistic passions of inner-city life. Muted colors emit a seductive smoky glow reminiscent of the ageless jazz-noir glamour."  
 — **Brian Reyes**

"The point at which future meets past, design meets function and the collision results in clean, sophisticated lines interpreted in ultraluxurious fabrics."  
 — **Savania Davies-Keiller and Roberto Crivello, DDCLab**

"Harmonious juxtaposition of modernity and a poetic romanticism; demure, discreet, with the sumptuous textures of the Thirties."  
 — **Douglas Hannant**

"The dusty color tones and delicate textures of the 17th century, as well as the beautiful movement, vulnerability, and tenderness captured in Edgar Degas ballerina paintings."  
 — **Esteban Cortazar**

"Exuberant and sexy — imagine Ossie Clark doing an Art Deco revival."  
 — **Andreas Melbostad, Phi** ▶

"Sally White's wedding in Vegas...endless desert, dark nights lit up like firecrackers with colorful and fascinating billboards...as if I were to magnify those lights; I wanted to capture that in this collection."  
 — **Hanuk**

"To convey a glorified world of urban beauty and elegance, and separate it from the underworld of sinister and menacing visual components. Using moonlight as the mutual source, the two worlds come together on the runway."  
 — **Jerry Tam, Eric Werner, Jamie Rosenthal and Kelly Andrews, Form**



"The lullaby of Broadway/ Electric Avenues/ Jewel thieves prowl the town/ A powwow of gang poses/ Synchopated hysteria mixed with magical melodies/ Ladies and gentleman... Gothamism."  
 — **Richie Rich and Traver Rains, Heatherette**

"I was inspired by the dress my mom wore to her engagement party 35 years ago and the photographs of Willy Maywald. Like Maywald's photos and my mom's dress, I wanted to create pieces that were timeless, elegant, and sensuous, yet classic."  
 — **Holly Dunlap, Hollywold**

"The John Lennon quote, 'Reality leaves a lot to the imagination.'"  
 — **Mary Ping**

"Our collection is about an inherent elegance. An ode to romanticism and femininity. We looked to women who represented strength and intellectualism. Anne Sexton's natural elegance and strong sense of womanhood is always an inspiration."  
 — **Jeffrey Costello and Robert Tagliapietra, Costello Tagliapietra** ▶

"I pay respect to the masters of sexy: [Thierry] Mugler, [Claude] Montana and [Azzedine] Alaïa."  
 — **Jay Godfrey**

