



Flannery Dean **WRITER**

Assignment Dean, a Toronto writer and editor, investigates java's beauty benefits in "Beauty Brew" (page 190). **Lost loves** "My idea of perfect happiness involves my sofa and a marathon *Lost* session. Sawyer, Jack, Sayid—I'm in love with them all!" **The write stuff** "If I weren't a writer, I would be a completely miserable person, which is no kind of person to be." **Greatest gifts** "Anything my mother gave me—except the unwieldy cleavage."



Sam McKnight **CELEBRITY HAIRSTYLIST**

Assignment London-based McKnight has coiffed the manes of such celebrities and supermodels as Madonna and Gisele Bündchen. This month, he created the hottest hairstyles for fall in "Perfect Storm" (page 196). **Tops and tails** "The hair and the shoes are the bookends—everything in between

“THE HAIR AND THE SHOES ARE THE BOOKENDS—EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN SHOULD BE EASY.”

should be easy.” **Split ends** "If you're breaking up with your hairstylist, you'd better keep the relationship sweet; you never know when he might be the only person open in town and you have grey roots and a wedding to go to." **Disaster relief** "When travelling, all you need is a good shampoo and conditioner—you'll be prepared for any hair emergency that comes your way."



Kate Somers **MODEL**

Assignment Toronto-born Somers was discovered at the Ford Supermodel of the World search in 2007. This month, she brings the ladylike glamour of the '50s to life with photographer Richard Bernardin (page 162). **Paris, je t'aime** "I am working toward my bilingual certificate so that I can live or study in France." **Storytime** "When I was younger, my dad used to make up his own fairy tales to tell me and my sister before bed—we starred in some of the best!"

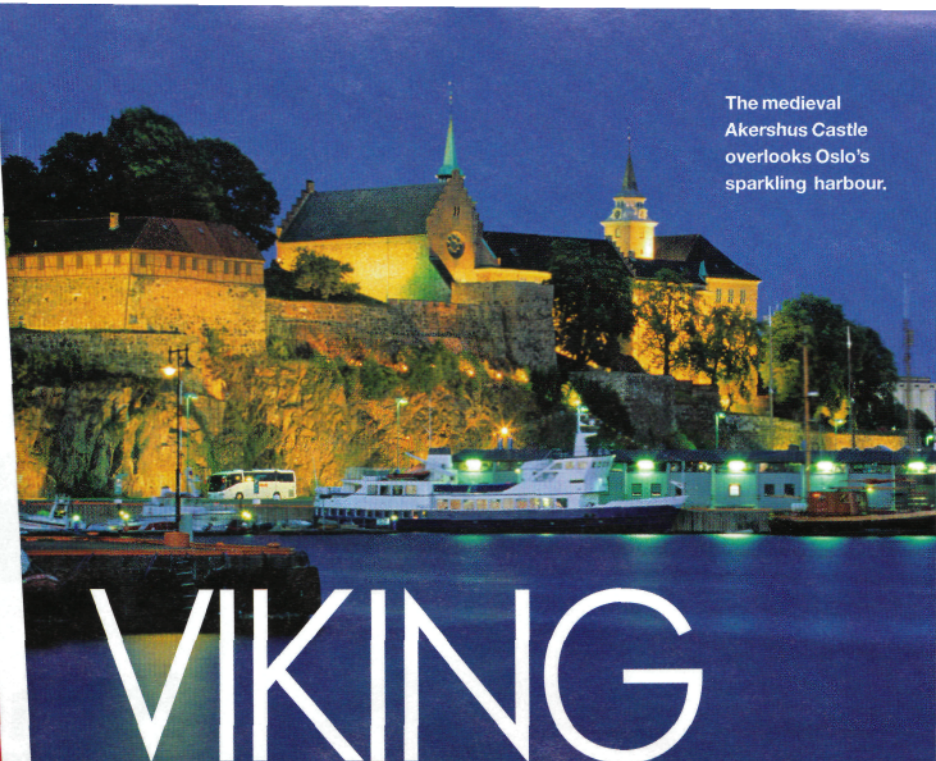


Margaret Swaine **WRITER**

Assignment Montreal-born Swaine travelled to Norway to suss out the country's fashion and design scene in "Viking Style" (page 136). "The people were quite uninhibited: They spoke their minds, and on the weekends did they ever party!" **Worst-case scenario** "Sitting beside someone with poor table manners and no social graces at a dinner party." **Package deal** "Vienna has the architectural beauty of Paris without the attitude, the arts and culture of London without the traffic jams, and the culinary scene of New York without the noise."



Kristian Aadnevik's innovative style is set to make him an international star.



The medieval Akershus Castle overlooks Oslo's sparkling harbour.

VIKING STYLE

Norway has always been cool, but a new focus on fashion and design means that it's never been more chic. TEXT: MARGARET SWAINE

Norway's icy fjords, dark forests and snow-capped mountains are custom-made for fairy-tale lore. But today's Norway is much more than pristine wilderness: Black gold pumped from the North Sea has made this country of 4.7 million people very rich. "The younger generation now has the luxury of self-expression," says Kristian Aadnevik, a fashion designer who was recently anointed by *Vogue* as "one to watch." The result? An emphasis on culture and style. Norway's \$800-million opera house opened in April, Oslo Fashion Week showcases native talent twice a year, and Crown Princess Mette-Marit recently appointed herself ambassador of Norwegian fashion. For visitors, this means a boom in designer shopping, chic restaurants and stylish nightlife. To avoid the months of winter darkness—which bring to mind *The*

Scream by Edvard Munch, the country's most famous artist—visit in the fall or spring.

OSLO

The scene The air is crisp and invigorating in the walkable 1,000-year-old Norwegian capital. In winter, Oslovisians stroll down the streets with skis over their shoulders; in summer, they don hiking boots. Architectural styles range from the medieval (Akershus Castle, built around 1300) to the futuristic (the white marble opera house, with a slanted roof that emerges from beneath the fjord).

Where to stay At **First Hotels Grims Grenka**, a new luxury design hotel, the look is minimalist, with clean lines, warm accents and lots of glass and wood. Stay in the loft suite, which boasts high-drama decor: rich scarlet walls and a tub on a stage in the middle of the room. ▷



The Etoile bar at Oslo's Grand Hotel; Shopping at Trabant





From left:
Aker Brygge:
a busy shopping
area; the Solstrand
Hotel houses a
first-class spa

The **Grand Hotel** has a special “ladies’ floor,” with rooms designed by some of Norway’s female celebrities. Admire the ivory palette in Olympic skier Kari Traa’s lovely Snowprincess room, with girly touches like furry duvets, pink pillows and a sheer decorative panel printed with a pen-and-ink Norwegian forest.

Where to shop Find the next great Norwegian designers at **Steen & Strom**—Norway’s largest department store—which boasts 200 years of history and a great selection of Scandinavian designers. Recently, it stocked Leila Hafzi’s flowing chiffon dresses and Arne & Carlos’ cutting-edge take on traditional Norwegian patterns, among other up-and-comers. Aadnevik was carried here before his fame and pricing grew too

haute for the store; you’ll now find him—along with other A-list labels (Chanel, Gucci)—at **Voga**.

Don’t miss **Grünerløkka**, a former gritty area that has now gentrified into a stylish shopping neighbourhood. Drop in at **Robot** and **Trabant** for vintage, retro and mod fashions.

Where to drink and dine

Café Odeon’s juicy gourmet burgers and *moules frites* are reason enough to visit, but linger into the evening and the bar turns into a happening club for Oslo’s designer-denim-clad west-enders. Across from the Norwegian Parliament, the gorgeous **Café Christiania** has polished wood floors, floor-to-ceiling windows and a collection of vintage country-store signs from 1900 to the 1960s. Make a reservation for the beer table, which has self-serve beer taps that come down from the ceiling and a menu based around the brews.

Oslo in a day Start with breakfast at the **Grand Hotel**: a veritable smorgasbord of breads, cheeses and peppered mackerel. Next stop: **Aker Brygge**, a former shipyard converted into a waterfront shopping area packed with theatres, cafés and boutiques. Grab a bite at **Lofoten Fish Market**: For pure indulgence, try the Norwegian Lobster au Gratin. Pamper yourself at the **Solstrand Hotel’s spa**, which features a first-class treatment menu and floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the fjord.

BERGEN

The scene “Located between seven mountains, Bergen is one of the most beautiful cities in Norway,” says Aadnevik of his hometown, “but there’s still a lack of designer boutiques.” Go instead for the ▷



Chic minimalism
at First Hotels
Grims Grenka
(above); Café
Christiania

NORTH STAR

Norway’s first sartorial superstar, Kristian Aadnevik has worked for Charles Jourdan and, most recently, collaborated with Donatella Versace on her fall 2008 show. He lives in London.

● **Who are you designing for?**

“Women with personal style who value an extraordinary item. My designs are not about sex appeal, but I work in a way that emphasizes the female body. During the creation process, every garment is draped and tailored on a model.”

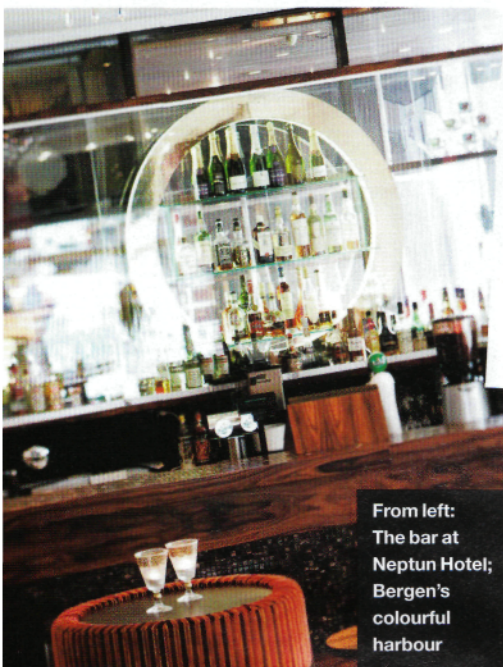
● **What was it like working with Donatella Versace?**

“Donatella gave me complete trust and freedom to



Aadnevik’s
romantic,
Gothic-tinged
creations for
fall 2008

follow my own heart. There was a great chemistry there.” ● **What inspired your fall collection?** “It represents the voyage of my muse, from Gothic Transylvania to *belle époque* Paris to the avant-garde London club scene.”



From left:
The bar at
Neptun Hotel;
Bergen's
colourful
harbour



The Bergen Art
Museum; Marie
Antoinette glam at
Feliz nightclub



fresh seafood and impossibly picturesque views: Cobblestoned streets lined with narrow wooden houses dot the town's steep mountainsides.

Where to stay **Neptun Hotel**, decorated with more than 700 original works of art, is *the* place to go for cool visuals—even the garage has impressive graffiti art. Have a glass of bubbly in the hotel's **Ludvig Vin & Champagne Bar**, a popular après-work spot. Named for artist Ludvig Eikaas, whose abstract portraits grace the walls, it offers prime people-watching views, along with plates of jewel-toned petits fours.

Where to shop “Juhls’ **Silver Gallery** is a dangerous shop,” warns shopkeeper Jovita Abromaviciute. Tourists and locals alike find it difficult to leave without buying anything. Regine Juhls’ jewellery—delicate chandelier earrings and statement

pendants—takes its inspiration from the Nordic birds of passage, of whom she writes: “I feel as if I am seeing a miracle. After that there is a void... As if to replace it, I try to form shapes.”

Where to drink and dine Norway’s famed drink is aquavit, a tippale made from potato spirits, flavoured with caraway and dill and aged in wood. Try Linie Aquavit—the top brand—at the elegant **Femte i Andre**, which overlooks the harbour. Be adventurous at **Unicorn Restaurant** (Enhjørningen), housed in the ancient wharf district, and order the Whale Meat Carpaccio.

Bergen in a day Check out the historic **Food Market** for a latte, then wander through the nearby **Fish Market**, where a smile will get you free samples. Down the street, the **Hanseatic Wharf** district is a UNESCO heritage site. Wooden buildings that once functioned as trading posts (and now house chic cafés and shops) huddle so close together, they touch. Try a fresh salad topped with grilled shrimp and barbecued eggplant at **Bølgen og Moi** in the Bergen Art Museum, one of Norwegian celebrity chef Trond Moi’s five restaurants. Finish your evening at **Feliz** nightclub. With its mix of old-fashioned luxury (Marie Antoinette-style sofas) and modern chic (a bar that glows neon purple), it’s an It spot for Bergen’s stylish set.

Getting there Icelandair flies from Halifax and Toronto to Oslo and Bergen via Reykjavik. □



Chill out at
the Kirkenes
SnowHotel.

DARK PASSAGE

One of the loveliest and most relaxing ways to explore the country is on the **Hurtigruten cruise line**, which prowls the Norwegian coastline from Bergen to Kirkenes, near the Russian border. Take a cruise in either direction, or hop on and off at any of the 34 ports of call. On the King Crab safari, you’ll travel by snowmobile to a fjord and watch your hosts dive for crabs, which they’ll later prepare on the spot. At the **Kirkenes SnowHotel**, you’ll tour a hotel built entirely of ice and snow, then dine on reindeer sausages at **Gabba** restaurant. Step off at **Hammerfest** just to say that you’ve touched ground in the world’s most northerly town.

For more info on Norwegian style, visit www.ellecanada.com.