

Bring With

Smart Luxury Awards Edition: Shopping All-Stars *Part 1*

Every issue, **Milena Damjanov** scours the globe in search of the gadgets, gizmos, and geegaws that make the messy world of modern travel more efficient, fun, and above all, stylish. For our Smart Luxury Awards issue, Damjanov selected her favorite retail and online stores featured in 2009 and picked out their keenest offerings.

PRODUCT PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOSHUA SCOTT

▼ **W Hotel the Store Trendy Show Stoppers** The W Hotels chain has nailed the concept of boutique accommodations offering creature comforts swathed in hipness. Now its retail spaces cater to that very same sensibility. Along with bergamot-scented scrubs, W Hotel mattresses, and iPod speakers, W Hotel the Store sells this standout **rolling suitcase** in powder blue designed by Hideo Wakamatsu. Cram whatever's needed into its many interior pockets and be the first to spot your luggage on the carousel. \$176, whotels.thestore.com



▲ **Flight 001 Eye-catching and Useful** The co-owners of the travel-themed chain of stores have backgrounds in design, which explains why they don't stock the usual luggage and guidebooks. Merchandise ranges from high-fashion Hayden-Harnett totes to sleek Alessi watches, with all sorts of specialized gear for packing and plane comfort in between. For those who can't leave home without a supply of seasonings, the **spice box** serves as an airtight, waterproof container for safe transport. \$12, flight001.com



◀ **Filson Rough-Hewn Utility** During the Klondike gold rush, Seattle-based Filson first made its name as an outfitter. Now, whether one's passion is fly-fishing, wing shooting, or simply staying dry in classic, rugged togs, the retailer provides gear for all sorts of adventurers, including man's best friend. A collapsible, nylon-lined **dog bowl** comes in the company's signature oil finish fabric. \$30, filson.com

► **Vivre Global Luxury** The goods at this high-fashion catalog company and website would not be out of place in the world's most luxurious department stores. Mixed in with extravagant jewelry and It bags are items with a distinctively jet-set flair, like foldable aviators. From English brand Hackett Bespoke, these sleek unisex **sunglasses** can be discreetly tucked away into their leather case. \$300, vivre.com



◀ **Red Envelope Affordable and Classic** The online catalog company specializes in gifts like friendship bracelets and relaxation baskets, but its travel accoutrements have an appealingly traditional sensibility and a one-of-a-kind feel. Red Envelope's leather **wine carrier**, featuring monogram-ready brass hardware, puts other vino holders to shame. \$80, redenvelope.com



◀ **The Spoon Sisters Witty Practicality** The sisters who run this website, a veritable gift cornucopia, have found amusing trinkets to suit most occasions. The travel items sprinkled among the embroidered linen hand towels and designer duct tape provide solutions for problems both real and imaginary (Emergency Chocolate, anyone?). The spork is the ideal all-in-one picnic **utensil**. \$6-\$10 for set of two, spoonsisters.com



▲ **Takashimaya New York Asian Aesthetic** Even the narrow New York outpost of the Japanese department store chain Takashimaya possesses a Zen-like quality, from its elegant tea section to the luxurious-yet-whimsical travel department. A do-it-yourself **pinhole camera** kit not only provides its owner the thrill of construction but it's also durable enough for extended use. \$25, takashimaya-ny.com



▼ **A+R Impeccably Cutting-Edge** Tastemaking co-owners Rose Apodaca and Andy Griffith, right, stock their Venice, California, store with a well-edited selection of the latest in boundary-pushing global design. While A+R doesn't stock a huge travel selection, the finds are spot-on, like a digital **alarm clock** by Sam Hecht. Smaller than a passport and completely goof-proof, it simultaneously displays both current and wake-up times. \$40, aplusrstore.com



▲ **MoMA Store World's Top Designers** Known for the caliber of its merchandise—selected after consultation with the Museum of Modern Art's curators—the MoMA Store presents travel accessories that perfectly blend utility and sharp looks. Jonas Damon's beech wood **flashlight** elegantly illuminates any dark patch. \$55, momastore.org



COURTESY FLIGHT 001; OPPOSITE, FROM TOP: ANDREW LOKLEY/COURTESY MOMA; RAMONA ROSALES/COURTESY A+R

Bring Back

Smart Luxury Awards Edition: Shopping All-Stars *Part 2*

Browsing for local goods is one of the essential pleasures of traveling, but landing in a disappointing store is as easy as happening upon a lackluster restaurant. We combed our stories from the past year and selected these standout spots—worth a detour for their distinctive vibe and superior wares.

Julie Neill Designs **New Orleans**

At her combination store and workshop on Magazine Street, interior decorator turned lighting designer Julie Neill fashions gorgeous chandeliers from metal, crystal, and wood, along with striking sconces and furnishings. Her chandeliers are named for the people who inspired them (the Juliet is for her daughter), and Neill will fill custom orders, too. *3908 Magazine St.; julieneill.com*

Le Diwan **Tunis, Tunisia**

Located in Tunis's picturesque medina, Le Diwan is owned by the same folks who run the city's best restaurant. While some of the prices for its jewelry, leather goods, and small carpets are higher than those in nearby markets, so is the quality—and there's no haggling. *10 Rue Dar El Jeld; 216/71-560-916*

Native Agent **Auckland, New Zealand**

The crafty but sophisticated aesthetic at this airy Auckland shop reflects the Maori heritage of its owners, including designer Rona Ngahuia Osborne, right. With handmade quilts, pillows, and clothing that incorporate Maori trading symbols like feathers and muskets, Native Agent revisits the past in a thoroughly modern form. *507 New North Rd.; nativeagent.co.nz*

Venus and Mars—The Showroom

Nashville Since opening their store last year in an atmospheric house on Belmont Avenue, supermodel Karen Elson and her partner Amy Patterson have created a destination for

vintage aficionados and dabblers alike. As the emporium carries men's and women's clothes, rare 19th-century finds, and unusual trinkets, many hours could happily be lost in the racks, soaking in the odds and ends of bygone eras. *2009 Belmont Blvd.; venusandmarsvintage.com*

Les Toiles du Soleil **New York City**

This French company has been manufacturing cheery striped linen and cotton fabrics in the same way, on the same looms, in the same French town (Saint Laurent de Cerdans) for 150 years. It's hard to resist the ready- or custom-made umbrellas, pillows and espadrilles at Les Toiles du Soleil outposts in Paris, Tokyo, and most recently New York. *261 W. 19th St.; lestoilesdusoleilnyc.com*

Artisans d'Angkor **Siem Reap, Cambodia**

Established to enable young artisans to continue Khmer craft traditions, this must-see store allows visitors to also tour its workshops. Specializing in all things silk, including scarves, handbags, and pillows, as well as religious statuary and wall art, Artisans d'Angkor presents a trove of affordable options, just leaving the problem of how to get them all home. *Various locations; www.artisansdangkor.com*

Black Parrot **Portland, Maine**

In the soaring space of a former book depository, the Black Parrot boutique features women's clothing from cult labels like Rachel Comey and Rag & Bone as well as a fine collection of designer items, including Marimekko fabrics and Hans Wegner chairs. *131 Middle St.; 207/221-6991*



Les Toiles du Soleil



Native Agent

FROM TOP: COURTESY LES TOILES DU SOLEIL; PATRICK REYNOLDS