



## VANCOUVER NOTES

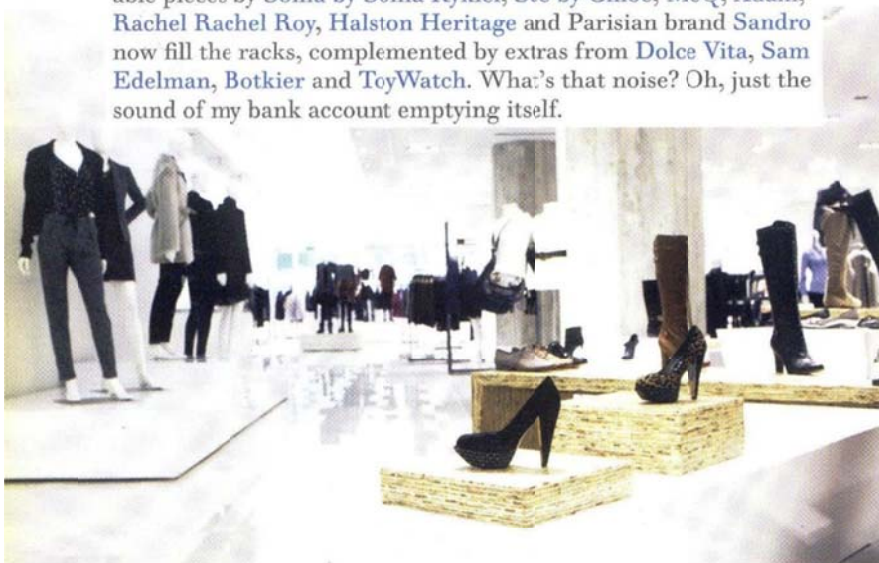
**REBECCA TAY** visits two recently made-over shops and gets started on her holiday gift list.

### OH, LOUIS

Being the Canadian city farthest away from shopping meccas like New York and London is one of the few downsides of living in Vancouver. Every so often, though, we get a piece of news that makes everything better. This month, that's the opening of the **LOUIS VUITTON MAISON** at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver (730 Burrard St., 604-596-9404, [louisvuitton.com](http://louisvuitton.com)). What's changed? What hasn't! Now a bi-level, 10,000-square-foot space, North America's fourth Maison has a two-storey-high bag bar, a wall devoted to exotic leather goods and runway pieces, a permanent work of art ("Geometric Healing" by Vancouver artist Steven Shearer) and—finally!—Marc Jacobs' ingenious, game-changing women's ready-to-wear collection for the brand. Best of all, we now have the largest LV store in the country.

### A RENO TO REMEMBER

Once the domain of housewives, brides-to-be and guys who hate shopping, **THE BAY** has undergone a much-needed renovation (hey, if you were 340 years old, you'd be looking a bit shabby too). The new, second-level White Space at the downtown flagship (674 Granville St., Vancouver; 604-681-6211, [thebay.com](http://thebay.com)) has been transformed into a retail heaven that's the exact opposite of dowdy and dull. The old space has been gutted—it's now minimalist, modern and seriously appealing—and the buy has also completely changed: covetable pieces by Sonia by Sonia Rykiel, See by Chloé, McQ, Adam, Rachel Rachel Roy, Halston Heritage and Parisian brand Sandro now fill the racks, complemented by extras from Dolce Vita, Sam Edelman, Botkier and ToyWatch. Wha's that noise? Oh, just the sound of my bank account emptying itself.



**THE STEAL**

*The One of a Kind show lands at the new Convention Centre this month (Dec. 9-12, [oneofakindvancouver.com](http://oneofakindvancouver.com)), and I've got my eye on these cuffs by Winnipeg's **DCONSTRUCT** ([dconstruct.ca](http://dconstruct.ca)). Designers Lisa and Sean Reico work with either concrete or 40-per-cent-recycled resin inlaid with interesting objects such as seaweed, leaves and even small stalks of bamboo. Their pieces are a nice alternative to the exaggerated jewellery we've been seeing lately, and they're the perfect gift: made in Canada and expensive-looking, but not (the cuffs start at just \$25).*