

# style&design

## Influences

Created 11 years ago when she was a junior designer, Shotton's design of the Fifi was influenced by Elizabeth Taylor as Cleopatra — "lots of layers and pleating," she says — as well as a pleated tulle she spotted at Interfilière, an annual lingerie fair in Paris. "It was a new thing at the time, this pleated tulle." She adds: "When I designed this I was thinking of a man and a woman the whole time because I was designing for a man and a woman at that time — they were the founders [Joseph Corré and Serena Rees]. This way it really appeals to [both men and women]."

## Bra

"It's very comfortable and it pushes you up and together in all the right places," she says. "It's very simple, it's a black padded cup with baby pink tulle layered over top to give you that nice shadowing effect and then a lovely stretch ribbon that goes across the cup. The double layers of the tulle create a sort of pleated look that mirrors down into the suspender and then into the knicker."

## Details

"The lace that is on this range is from a company called Sophie Hallette, and their lace was used for Kate Middleton's wedding dress," Shotton says. "That really showed me how long we've been using them, because everyone was like, 'Ooh, who's this lace from?' when the wedding dress came out and we're like, 'We've been using them for years!'"

## delicate subjects

Luxury English lingerie brand Agent Provocateur celebrates 20 years of business this year, and last month opened up its first standalone boutique in Toronto's Yorkville on Bloor Street West. It's an appropriately intimate shop, glossy, mysterious and accommodating to all sorts of raciness, whether you're after a one-piece or a whip. We asked creative director Sarah Shotton to deconstruct the bestselling Fifi line for us. "This range is a really good first step into Agent Provocateur. It appeals to lots of personalities because it's got a bit of a vintage feel, which we're known for, and men and women both go for it. It's almost like a little black dress; it's one of those essentials," she says. *By Maryam Siddiqi*

## Versatility

The Fifi range consists of a bra, suspender, brief and thong. "The suspender, because it's skirty, takes it somewhere else," Shotton explains. "You could get the knicker and bra and it would look quite Brigitte Bardot, '60s — something you wear as an everyday set. Then, you put the suspender on in the evening and you're like a different woman, a little bit milkmaid but a little bit naughty. I think that's what's so clever about it."

## Knicker

"I wanted the knicker to be a continuation of the suspender and to be quite low cut on the hips. When you wear the knicker and the suspender it goes like lace, pink tulle, black tulle, sort of layered, and then top pink tulle, black tulle, lace, so it all works with one another," she says. "I wanted it to look really on brand. At the time, we'd had lots of bright lingerie and but we hadn't really done that many pink and black ranges. These, obviously, are our brand colours and I think that's another reason why it's been such a success."

## Suspender

"The suspender came first. We hadn't done a suspender like this before, skirty, a little bit schoolgirl, a little bit naughty, and so this was a new thing for us," Shotton says. "It's got lace around the top and then pink tulle and black tulle pleated and it layers. I wanted it to be quite elegant and to go over the hips but turn in, sort of make your waist look smaller and accentuate what you've got."

Bra \$190, brief \$140, suspender \$170.  
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