

# Zac Posen

Inspiring Style

944life

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Six short years ago a young talent was discovered in New York City at Gen Art's annual Fresh Faces in Fashion event. Following that debut, Zac Posen's rise to the top of the roster of American designers has been continual, aided in no small part by the number and quality of actresses sporting his frocks on the red carpet, such as Natalie Portman and Gwyneth Paltrow. Although his pricey couture collections may never exactly be mainstream, it is certain that he's destined to be a household name. Although he's exiting *wunderkind* territory, he's still only 27 years old with what looks like a long career ahead of him. 944 caught up with the tireless designer at Saks to get his views on holiday dressing.

**944: How did we get so lucky to see your 2008 Cruise Collection here in Miami, at Fisher Island no less?**

ZAC POSEN: We wanted to do this event with Saks and the charity [Bay Point School]. I love putting on shows. It's fashion-tainment. And I *loved* going on that ferry. It was a nightmare and cool. That's real luxury, to take time to breathe and reflect. We live in such a time of immediacy, of fast and quick and disposable. All those people that came to the show had 15 minutes to sit and think about what they saw, the clothes, et cetera. I wish we could have that in New York. I'd show in Brooklyn in a minute.

**You have a great personal style and that suit is a perfect example of it [black and white checker print — retro yet modern]. Do you design for yourself or wear other designers?**

Sometimes I make shirts for myself, but this is Tom Ford.

**What are your thoughts on getting dressed for the New Year?**

One should dress up for New Year's Eve. If you follow our calendar, and most of us do, that's your changing point. You should be with who you want to be with and dress as who you wanna be ... and there you are.

**OK, I want to be sexy, elegant and have a great time at a very chic New Year's Eve party. What do you dress me in?**

The slink dress [pictured left]. It's an incredible New Year's Eve dress. That said, I think you

should have a part of your outfit that you've created. It could be painting your white shoes red or putting your initials on them. Doesn't matter, it's just important for the energy of the New Year to have an element you've put yourself into.

**What inspires you?**

Human interaction is really joyous. I get inspired by people that I meet. I don't have one style icon, but I am very inspired by the street, now more than ever. It's more tribal, aggressive ... in an interesting way. Street dressing is the present day power dressing.

**We have to ask, what do you think of Miami style?**

It's exuberant. People here love to dress, it's very sexy, the women are strong and move very well in clothing. They have music in them. You can feel the energy on the street. It doesn't feel like

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"America" to me here. It feels like another place and another time period, not in the present.

**Does it feel like the future or past?**

Both. I feel all kinds of ghosts and energy in this city. But there is also a future-ism in its heat, its sexiness.

**Why are so many people paying attention to what you're doing now?**

You either have *it* or you don't. It's the buzz. You have to be a perfectionist and you have to take risks and be expressive.

**What's more important to you: pretty or sexy?**

You must be both! You have to be balanced. You almost need a third element to really balance it properly. I'd say smart — pretty, sexy and smart.

See more Zac at [www.zacposen.com](http://www.zacposen.com)

SLINK DRESS PHOTOGRAPHED AT SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

