

Style

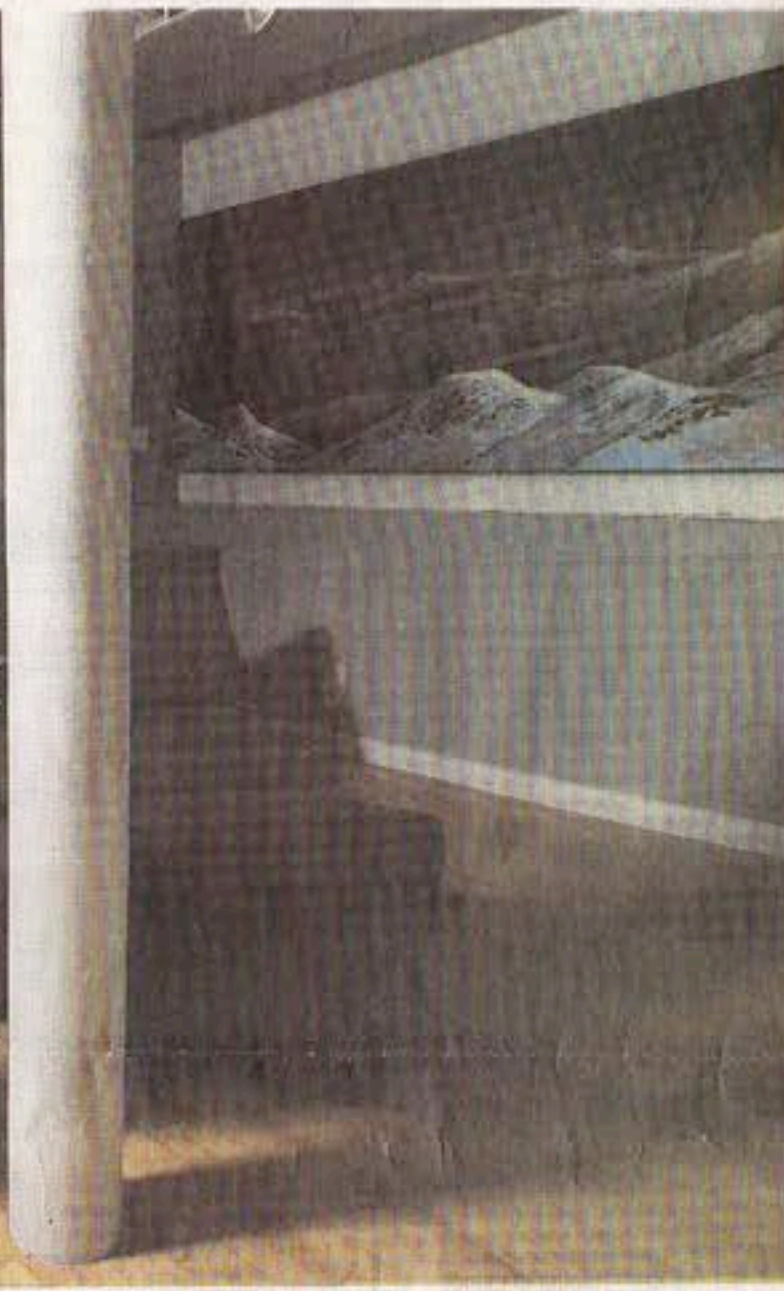
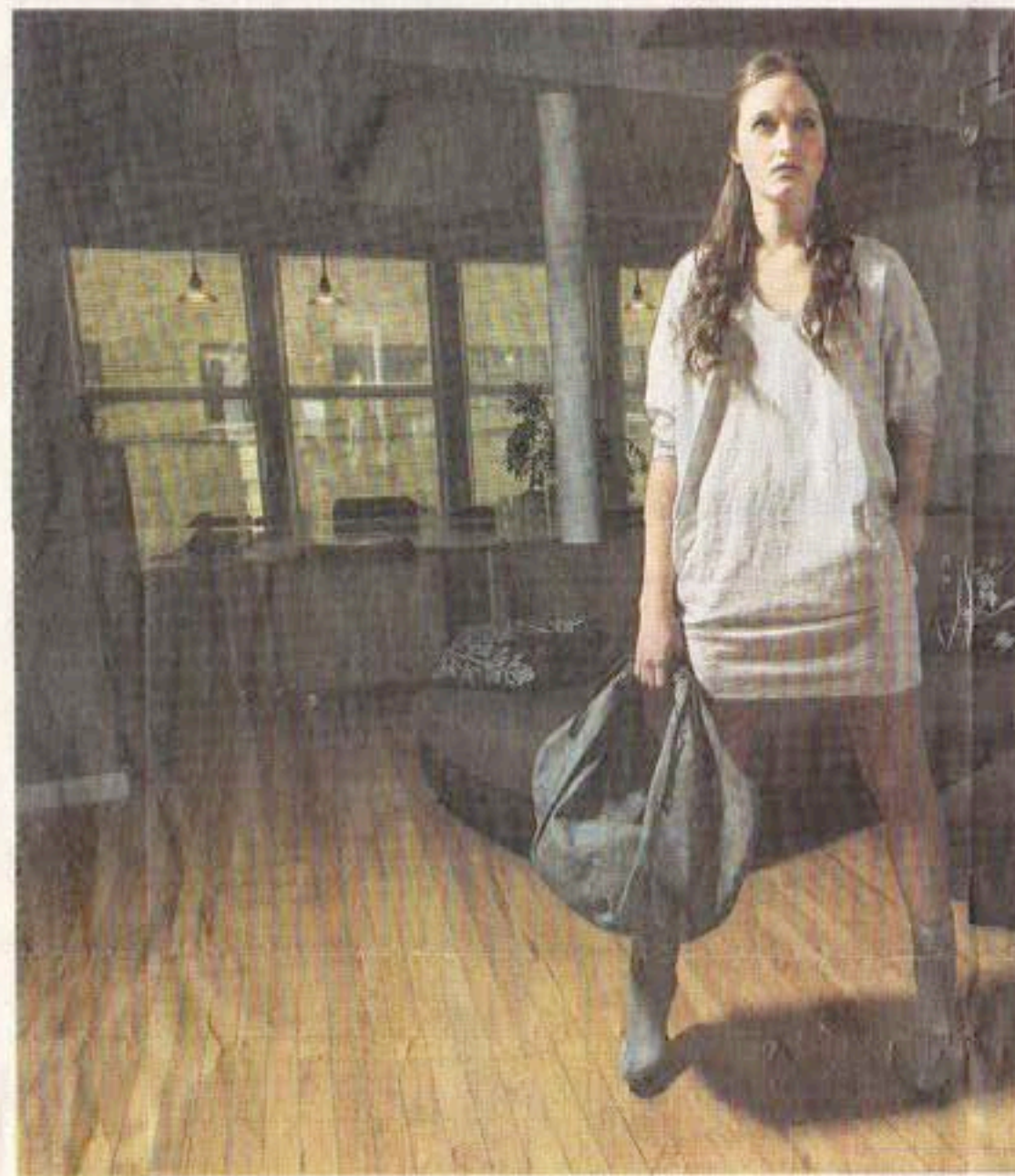
New Exchange District boutique doesn't sacrifice fashion-conscious for an environmental conscience

SUSTAINING with style



➤ FASHION / By Connie Tamoto

Left, 100 per cent silk dress by Josh Podoll, \$279; necklace made of 12 vintage necklaces by DLC, \$289; Olsen Haus shoes made with recycled TV-screen platform sole, cork heel and vegan upper, \$289; hemp/organic cotton pillows with chemical-free dye and eco fill by Amenity, \$69.



Left, FIN organic cotton dress, \$99; Carolina Strada organic cotton and vegetable-tanned leather purse, \$299; Olsen Haus boots made with recycled TV-screen platform sole, cork heel, vegan upper, \$399.

Right, organic cotton dress by Curator, \$89; Sweet Evie recycled brass/hand-cut leather necklace, \$129; hand-made naturally tanned leather Swedish Hasbeen boots with lime tree platform sole, \$495.



THE terms "eco-friendly," "organic" and "environmentally conscious" get tossed around far too often these days. Whether it's a claim to protect the environment by charging clients for bags, promoting the sale of organic cotton garments or printing receipts and flyers on recycled paper products, the buzz word of the day is "sustainable."

While many stores deserve an E for effort for taking the first steps in adopting a socially responsible policy of some sort, the reality is that true sustainability goes far beyond a few organic cotton garments and recycled shopping bags.

Five Two Sustainable Lifestyle Boutique is a new Exchange District shop offering eco-friendly clothing, shoes and accessories, handmade beauty products, home accents, furniture and pretty much everything in between.

"Sustainable is a very broad term that means many things to different people," says boutique owner Racha Adamek Forest. "At Five Two we are careful to source items that are not only organic, but are manufactured in ethical environments, coloured with chemical-free dyes and free of soy or corn products."

Adamek Forest's decision to open Five Two brought together everything she has

experienced in her life — from her teen years working with her father in the family retail business to her travels around the world as a yoga instructor to her deep love of fashion.

Now, I know when some people think of eco-friendly clothing that flimsy, unstructured, itchy, drab hemp drawstring pants and baggy T-shirts come to mind, but the garments at Five Two are quite the opposite.

"When I would go shopping I would always find very fashionable items, but finding well-made sustainable fashion was few and far between," says Adamek Forest.

With that in mind, she sources select items from award-winning designers from Canada, the U.S. and Europe who combine contemporary designs and luxe fabrics such as organic cotton, eco cashmere and raw silk to create fashionable and stylish pieces.

Here you will find items for men, women and kids from more than 90 designers, including gorgeous silk and satin frocks by Elena Garcia, trendy tops and bottoms by Red Jade, menswear by Thieves and the latest collections from Ivana Basilotta, one of the U.K.'s most promising up-and-coming designers.

The store also carries very fabulous shoes by OlsenHaus — a line of Vegan-friendly shoes that are 100 per cent animal-product free... and did I mention they are fashionable?

Five Two Sustainable Lifestyle Boutique is located at 52 Adelaide St.

Got a suggestion for a future column or a fashion trend worth following? Email Connie Tamoto at connietamotofashion@hotmail.com