

Russian Revolt

✱ Eastern fabrics and designs invade U.S.

RUSSIAN STYLES ARE INVADING U.S. stores and they're being greeted with open arms. This season the fashion world embraced gilded trims, cinched waists, full skirts, folkloric embroidery and even fur trapper hats.

"It's odd that a lot of designers were on the Slavic slant," said Cynthia Steffe, whose own collection was inspired by Russian fairy tales she read to her 2-year-old daughter.

But as she dissects the design process, she isn't so surprised that Russia emerged as a theme on so many runways: "So much of what we do is fabric-driven. The mills were focused on things rich and opulent, textured and metallic. The fabric was very luxe to begin with." And, she added, the color palette, with regal jewel tones such as emerald, ruby and amber and all shades of gold, also seemed to lend itself to the look.

Whereas last season was influenced by designers' travels to Morocco and India, Oscar de la Renta and Diane von Furstenberg were among those looking farther east for fall. Von Furstenberg even called her collection "Winter Palace" and explained that she was referring to the Russian Revolution.



RUSSIAN INTO IT: Diane von Furstenberg's coat sports the ever-popular



STYLE CZARINA: Designer Cynthia Steffe is inspired by traditional Rus-

DEAR MANOLO ►► THE SHOEBLOGGER ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Despite annual culling, I find that I still have 63 pairs of shoes. Is this too many? —Kate
Manolo says, too many shoes? Ha! The Manolo he laughs! Are there too many stars in the heavens? No! In the fact, to use the science, the recent survey of the readers of the Manolo reveals that

the average super fantastic girl own 127 pairs of the shoes. Yes, perhaps this it is not what might be called the "random sample," but is it not clear from this that 63 pairs is only half enough? To the Manolo, it sounds as if the real problem it is not that the Kate has too many shoes, but that she has too few



Beauty



Local Lawyer Makes Lotion

It's always nice to see locals make good. Former D.C.-ite Terry Carter left corporate law to create Travertine Spa, a new brand of body care products (not an actual spa). The line includes the usual suspects—shea butter, botanicals, jojoba—plus a yummy-looking Turbinado Sugar Scrub (\$42, travertinespa.com or 714-522-5659). We sampled the Petal Body Cream (\$23); it's Crisco-thick when first pumped, but absorbs into skin quickly and well. The floral scent is musky enough to not make you smell like Grandma. K.P.K

they are expensive, but you are celebrating. You have the new closets!
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Drinking



These Guys 'Sideways'
The pretentious, but THE WINE TASTING (bookstores) is here comes all the making party, except wine-bottle covers, wineglass markers s from accidentally and a cheat sheet of ms. Imagine, soon is could be describ- from Trader Joe's omas of plums and my taste." Mocking d make an excellent it oenophile in your KIRBY (EXPRESS)

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