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FLORIDA

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Alaska FLORIDA
HOW FASHION

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FALL TRENDS ISSUE

Emerald silk draped dress by Gustavo Arango, \$1,500. Necklace, \$2,650, and cuffs, \$395, both by Masha Archer, at Saks Fifth Avenue stores.

Masha FLORIDA
www.masha.com

VISION QUEST

Designer Gustavo Arango makes a new case for elegance and color with his latest fall collection

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC HASON STYLING BY DAVIS CARRASQUILLO

After the destruction of his Manhattan apartment in the aftermath of 9/11, designer Gustavo Arango returned to his home in Puerto Rico to regroup. When he arrived in the United States two years later for his debut show at New York Fashion Week 2003, he became somewhat of a mythological character. "Like the proverbial phoenix who rose from its own ashes," wrote Mari Davis of *Fashion Windows*, an online fashion blog. Five years later, Arango is still living up to that description. "To be in this business you have to be okay with a career that has its ups and downs," he says. "There are great seasons and not-so-great seasons. That's the way it goes."

Without doubt, Arango's fall 2008 collection definitely falls in the "great season" category thanks to his fearless use of bold color and expert draping. "My clothes right now are about when day becomes night," he says. "They're modern and avant-garde while still being wearable." And they're all about the palette: "Black is still very important but the colors are crucial."

Employing full-bodied variations of jade, deep purple, teal and chocolate, Arango's new line is alive with shades.

Fluid silhouette gowns and architectural dresses employ unique draping and sensuous textures. Bursts of jewel

tones conjure memorable impressions of glamour, whether in couture creations or more cocktail-friendly styles. Contrasting fabrics are expertly layered and the sleeve — whether draping with multiple layers, semi-transparent in mesh or busy three — emerges as a key accent. The common thread to it all: unstashed elegance. The Arango woman is a modern and seductive goddess, edgy and prim at once — and certainly never boring.

An accomplished designer since he was in his early teens, Arango's multicultural heritage relates well with his core clients, especially women in South Florida. His inspiration comes from his keen understanding of Latin females — always very put together, yet unafraid of vibrant colors. "Latin America has always been about color," says Arango, whose garments are carried through select Saks Fifth Avenue stores nationwide. "Now the U.S. and Europe are finally catching up. Instead of the blacks and grays, which are still important, I see that collections are including more and more color. It's a beautiful thing." And perfect for Florida's sunny state of mind. —



Model: Masha Yakovleva/Muse Models NY
Hair: Ryan Taniguchi
Makeup: DC One Fashion Productions
Cosmetics: face Stockholm & SA-8 Skin Care Line
Gustavo Arango: www.gustavoarango.com

Black and white dress by **Gustavo Arango**, \$1,800. Rings by **Masha Archer**, \$485 each, at Saks Fifth Avenue stores. Shoes, \$795, at **Giuseppe Zanotti Design** boutiques.



Masha FLORIDA
www.masha.org

Silk chocolate sequin dress by **Burkline Kraysa** - \$2,200

Necklace, \$1,775, and rings, \$485, both by **Masha Archer** at Saks Fifth Avenue stores.

Maska FLORIDA
www.maska.com



Hand-painted and embroidered white silk organza dress by **Gustavo Arango**, \$2,700
at Saks Fifth Avenue stores.

Earrings, \$165, and cuff, \$485, both by **Masha Archer**,



Masha FLORIDA
www.masha.com



Ametheyst satin organza dress by **Gustavo Arango**, \$3,000. Ring by **Masha Archer**, \$485, at Saks Fifth Avenue stores.