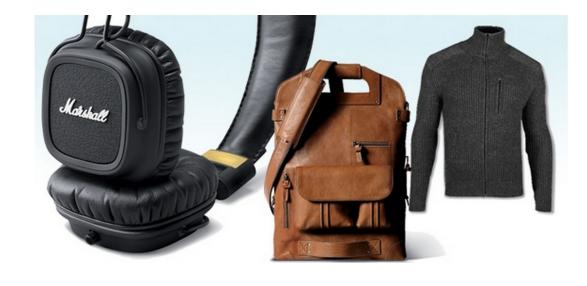


Things I Can't Live Without: Eric Villency, CEO Villency Design Group BY JUDITH OHIKUARE @OHIKUARE

A design maven takes his style on the road. Check out his favorite things.

Eric Villency, CEO, Villency Design Group

In 1998, Eric Villency became CEO of the Villency Design Group, an interior and product design firm started as a furniture maker by his grandfather Maurice Villency in New York City in 1932. Today, the 150-person company has 300 open projects, with clients including W Hotels, Mercedes-Benz, and Delta. Villency travels frequently to visit clients and manufacturers. Here are three things he brings along. As told to Judith Ohikuare.



Hard Graft Heritage Collection 2Unfold Laptop Bag

I realized about a year ago that I needed a nice bag for all of the things I carry to meetings. This laptop case is perfect. It's not overly dressy, but it still works with a suit. The multiple straps and holds make it easy to grab from any angle. You can fold it in half and use it as a messenger bag or remove the shoulder strap to carry it as a briefcase. My 15-inch MacBook Pro fits inside perfectly, and the five outside pockets are great for stashing my phone, watch, and wallet to go through airport security. Cost: \$655

Marshall Major Black headphones

Putting on music helps get me out of my immediate space and into a creative zone. Unlike many small earbuds, these headphones really create an isolated atmosphere. They have excellent sound quality at any volume, even without noise cancellation, and are perfect for long work sessions on a plane, in the office, or at home. I can collapse them to pack away, but I usually just wear them around my neck. I love their artisanal quality and retro style.

Cost: \$119

Triple Aught Design Special Service Sweater

I visit construction sites at least once a week and factories outside of the United States four to six times a year. This sweater is versatile enough to go straight from a job site to a client meeting, so I don't have to pull a Clark Kent in the car. It's made of wool, with reinforced shoulders and elbows that make it rugged and functional. I love the attention to detail-and the front zipper pocket is the perfect size for my iPhone and tape measure.

Cost: \$235