Strange Bedfellows

Paris will see a major culture clash during the ready-to-wear shows this fall. As the fashion crowd rolls into town, the city will also be hosting the Rugby World Cup, a magnet for muscled players and rowdy fans. One hotel, the ultraexclusive Bristol, is giving the two cliques a rare chance to mix—though not necessarily at the same table. For sportsmen, the Bristol will offer a menu of international beers and a souvenir rugby ball. For more delicate types, there’s the Haute Couture Cure program, featuring low-cal menus, private training sessions and spa treatments.

Making a Statement
Anselm Kiefer, one of the world’s most respected artists, has put America on his blacklist. During a recent interview on French radio, the German-born sculptor and painter unleashed his fury at the Bush administration and declared that he now refuses to enter the country. “The Americans are ruining everything—I’m enraged,” said Kiefer, who lives in Paris. Despite his long-standing admiration for the U.S., where he lived during the Eighties, the artist was a no-show at the opening of his exhibition at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C., last year. “No other world power is so idiotic,” he added.

Star Power
Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt

Blue Jean Baby
Furniture scion Eric Villency was unconventional when choosing the face (or bottom!) of his new denim line, Restoration of the Monarchy, which launches in September. He tapped Julia Restoin-Roitfeld, the 26-year-old daughter of French Vogue’s editor in chief, because, he says, “she’s a real woman with curves, depth and a career.” Lack of modeling experience didn’t hinder the Baron & Baron art director, who, Villency relays, told campaign lensman Hugo Tillmann, “From the time I was very young, my mother would make me practice posing.” As for why Villency has entered the fashion world, he says, “My dream has always been to design clothes. Everything came together when I started making cuff links last year, and friends began asking for them—that gave me the confidence I needed.”

Behind Closed Doors
Photographer Jacqueline Hassink—who launched her career with the 1995 book The Role of Power, which captured the boardrooms of Europe’s 40 largest corporations—and turned her lens on dressing rooms. For her latest project, featured in The Power Book (Chris Boot), due in October, Hassink visited fashion’s most rarified realms: the couture fitting rooms of Chloé and Unravel, as well as the VIP changing lounges at houses including Chanel, Prada and Donna Karan. Publicity-shy clients need not fret—Hassink shot the plush quarters only when they were vacant.

Above: The Chanel fitting room

© Anselm Kiefer

© Julia Restoin-Roitfeld in Restoration of the Monarchy jeans