

GUIDE BOOK

THE LOOKER



Mark Rutherford

DRESSY MEETS CASUAL

Ask Oakland designer Kristina McConnico how to describe her new women's line Lacson Ravello, and she'll happily admit that it's about the contradictions. "It's a little bit California and relaxed," says McConnico, 43. "But also a little bit preppy — and a touch bohemian."

Inspired by the casual urban cool of French designer Isabel Marant and the minimalist lines of APC, McConnico decided to launch her made-in-San Francisco label after more than two decades of fashion design experience working for lesser-known start-ups and iconic Bay Area brands such as Levi's, Gymboree, Old Navy and Bebe.

Her summer collection debuted on her web shop in late August with five go-to silhouettes in natural fabrics — a poncho, dress short, blouse, pant and dress — that McConnico envisioned as the key pieces

any busy, modern woman might pack in her suitcase.

Fall debuts in early October with six separates in premium Japanese fabrics, including a leopard-print camouflaged jacket, a chambray culotte and a jersey drop-waist dress. The collection was inspired by the outdoors and her exploration in Marin's Muir Woods.

"The silhouettes really came out of my own frustration with trying to find clothes for myself," says McConnico, who designs from her sunny studio cottage behind her North Oakland home and produces out of a factory in San Francisco. "It's that ubiquitous problem — I'd shop, and things were either too dressy or too casual."

Lacson Ravello strikes that ideal balance between easy and put together: The

Sayulita poncho in a white-and-cobalt blue textured print, inspired by McConnico's travels to Mexico, looks equally fresh dressed up with a pair of slim trousers and heels or thrown over jeans and a T-shirt for a beach outing.

With quality details such as finished inside binding, YKK zippers, drawstrings with leather stoppers, and carefully thought-out pocket placement on each garment, McConnico designs for the sophisticated, West Coast woman who values small-batch production and craftsmanship details from the inside out.

"She's a Bay Area girl," says McConnico. "She works hard and plays hard. She needs a wardrobe that's just as versatile."

— Nerissa Pacio Itchon

Shop online:  
www.lacson  
ravello.com

THE LIST

INSTANT SKIN GRATIFICATION

Talk to any dermatologist or aesthetician and they'll probably tell you to give a skin care product 2 to 3 weeks to start working its magic. But who has the time? When your face is showing signs of stress (plus dehydration, lack of sleep and the effects of those late-night cocktails and bar snacks, too), the last thing you want to do is wait for a product to work. These quick fixes will give you the instant results you crave.

— Janna Mandell



LIFT

It's hard to take a skin care device seriously when it claims "instant lift," but the NuFace Trinity gives your face an immediate (yet temporary) refresh. Using microcurrent technology to lift, sculpt and tone, the company's newest model allows you to add attachments, like the Eye and Lip Enhancer (pictured), which combats lip wrinkles and droopy eyelids. NuFace Trinity, \$325 (attachments sold separately). [www.mynuface.com](http://www.mynuface.com).



BRIGHTEN

Dark, swollen eyes signal to everyone you were either out too late or you spent the night crying into your pillow (or both). Change the water-cooler talk by applying a tightening, brightening eye cream. Packed with Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), which deliver oxygen to the skin, light-reflecting mica and peptides, which increase skin's elasticity over time, the Cosmedix Eye Genius Brilliant Eye Complex will make you look 8-hours-of-sleep good. \$68. [www.cosmedix.com](http://www.cosmedix.com).



MOISTURIZE

Whether you just got off a long flight or the drought air is drying your skin, it can be hard to maintain a youthful, dewy look. And applying makeup over dry, patchy skin is like trying to ice a cake with a fork. For a quick fix, try the Omorovicza Gold Hydralifting Mask, with bio-polymers to give skin an airbrushed, blurred effect, and time-released hyaluronic acid to leave skin looking plumped and hydrated. \$185. Available at Neiman Marcus stores and [www.omorovicza.com](http://www.omorovicza.com).



PRIME

It's easy to be dubious when a product boasts 3-in-1 action, but slick on all-natural Vapour Beauty Stratus Instant Skin Perfector and you won't question its moisturizer, primer and no-color foundation claims. With organic pumpkin and evening primrose, this skin stick diminishes redness and diffuses the look of pores and fine lines, giving skin such a glow you won't need anything else on top of it. \$48. Available at Credo, 2136 Fillmore St., S.F. and [www.vapourbeauty.com](http://www.vapourbeauty.com).



LIP-PLUMPING

When lip-plumping products first came out over a decade ago, they were often ridden with chemicals and caused an uncomfortable burning sensation. But pout plumpers have come a long way. With 95 percent natural ingredients, Alba Botanica Quick Fix for Thin Lips is a hydrating gloss with cinnamon, peppermint and ginger to "trigger plumping and flusbing" and leave your lips with that just-bitten hint of color and shine. \$5.99. Available at Whole Foods markets and [www.AlbaBotanica.com](http://www.AlbaBotanica.com).