

Hotel designer Philippe Starck on what makes an inn invaluable **D9**



# OFF DUTY



The Kia Cadenza: unconvincing luxury from a bargain brand **D11**

EATING | DRINKING | STYLE | FASHION | DESIGN | DECORATING | ADVENTURE | TRAVEL | GEAR | GADGETS

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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## Making Peace With PINK

It can be suffocatingly girly. Aggressively silly. But spring's tougher takes on the color of the moment might just overcome your objections

BY NANCY MACDONELL

**O**RDINARILY, when designers rally around a color, there's little to report beyond the news that cerulean blue or dove gray or what-have-you is the new black. When that color is pink, a hue with more baggage than the arrivals terminals at JFK airport, things get more complicated. For some women, pink is simply pretty, a flattering shade that brings color to the cheeks, but for others, pink is forever mired in saccharine depictions of stereotypical girliness. For still others, it's a postmodern feminist statement, a color whose inescapable gender associations can be radicalized. Whatever your feelings about the shade, prepare to see a lot of it this spring: On this season's runways, pink predominated.

As befits a hue with mille-feuille layers of meaning, designers' interpretations varied considerably. At Michael Kors Collection, where the models strode out to Rufus Wainwright singing "Get Happy," it had a brisk, All-American feel, exemplified by a cheery azalea trench coat. Things were equally upbeat at J. Crew, where a sheer, pale pink top was layered over a similarly hued gingham shirt. At Valentino, pink was lush and romantic, with intricate appliques and historical references. At Bottega Veneta, a geranium-hued leather dress had a don't mess-with-me mien. And at Marc Jacobs, a bubblegum-and-silver ruffled minidress was ready for a rave.

The thread that connected these various takes on the supposedly tender hue was a lack of pink's traditional sweetness. That's because in the 21st century, the color is most often employed ironically, said Dr. Valerie Steele, the director of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, which is planning an exhibition on pink next year: "It plays with the idea of femininity and prettiness. It's not straight-on pink."

According to Mr. Kors, pink this season is about power, specifically, "the idea that women today want to feel feminine but also powerful, strong and independent." In the wake

*Please turn to page D2*



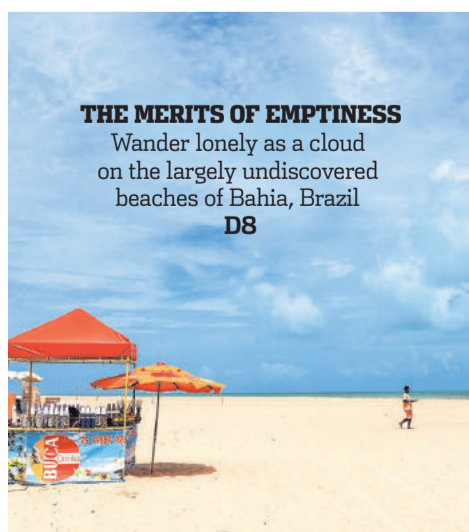
**ROSE RISING** The most dominant shade on the spring runways was surprisingly pink. Dress \$1,895, and Pantashoes, \$2,850, Balenciaga, 212-206-0872. Photographed at Pietro Nolita in New York City. Fashion editor: Rebecca Malinsky

[ INSIDE ]



### HOT-BUTTON ISSUE

Does it look uptight or quite all right to fasten your shirt all the way sans tie? **D3**



### THE MERITS OF EMPTINESS

Wander lonely as a cloud on the largely undiscovered beaches of Bahia, Brazil **D8**



### MASTER PIECES

The next-level buy for chocoholics? Origin-made bars **D4**



### FOLD SCHOOL

Wham, bam, origami! **D10**

ANDRES OVUELA FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, HAIR BY TANUYA SUGAWARA/WALTER SCHUPPER MANAGEMENT, MAKEUP BY VICTOR NOBLE/JED ROOT, MODEL: KAILAH NG/MAJOR MODEL MANAGEMENT

## DESIGN &amp; DECORATING

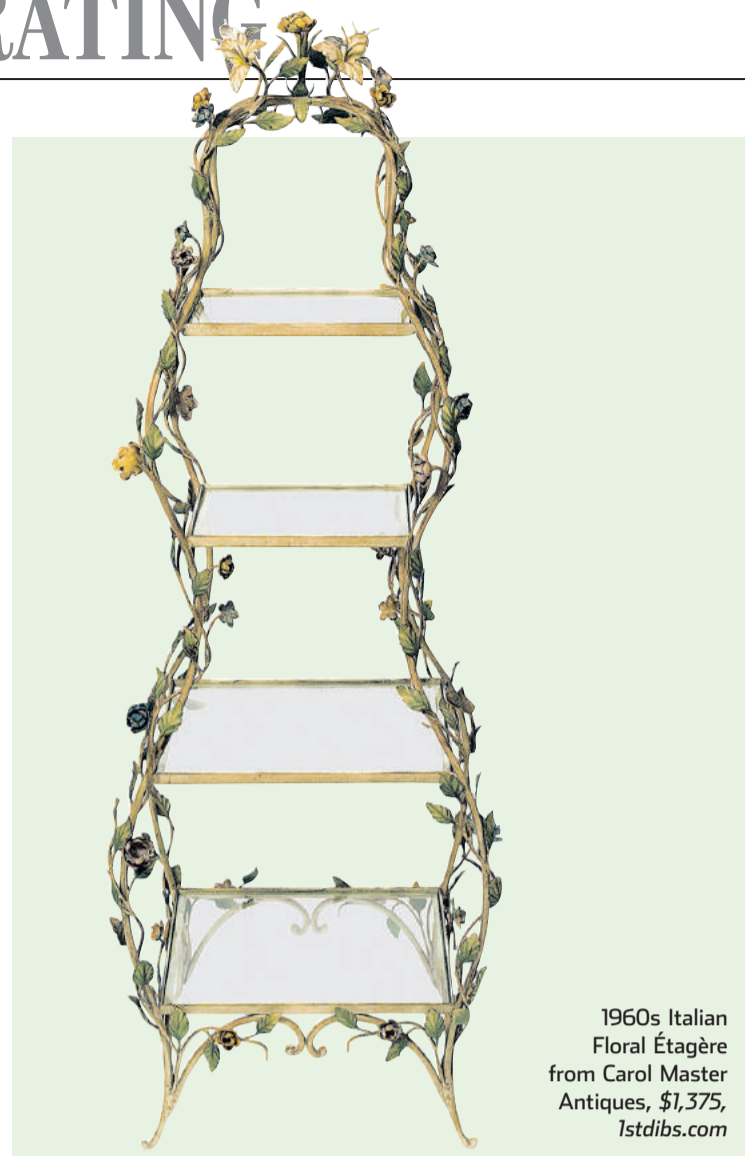
## THE MEDIATOR

## Lavatory Rivalry

**The conflict** A minimalist vanity must share space in a loo with an elaborately wrought étagère. Three designers try to bridge the style chasm



Norm Architects  
Frame Console by  
Ex.t, about \$4,785,  
shop.ex-t.com



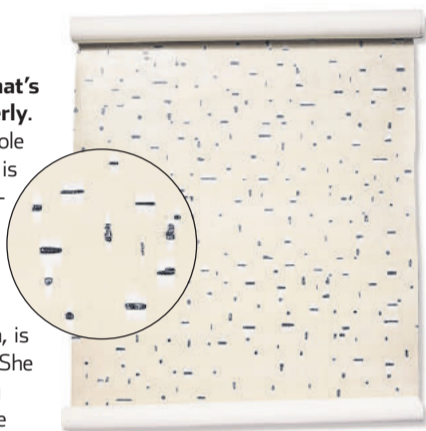
1960s Italian  
Floral Étagère  
from Carol Master  
Antiques, \$1,375,  
1stdibs.com

## SOLUTION 1

## Hang wallpaper that's graphic but painterly.

The black sink console by Norm Architects is minimal and masculine, pointed out San Francisco designer Lauren Gernia, while the étagère, though iron, is floral and feminine. She suggests reconciling their stylistic dispute with a wall covering

that's strongly graphic but softly blurred. "The two pieces are very considered in design, not generic at all," she added. This paper—unusually tactile thanks to a base of compressed marble-dust plaster—"also has that." *Permia Caviar Bone Wallpaper*, \$341 per yard, Callidus Guild, 718-783-0329



## SOLUTION 2

## Add a contemporary take on a fussy form.

A distillation of the Queen Anne style, this mirror is streamlined enough to make nice with the modern console, but able to speak "to the undulating lines of the étagère as well," said San Francisco designer Kendall Wilkinson. The looking glass lightens up the dark vanity, and its brassy finish connects with the gold paint of the étagère, "creating a fluidity among the three pieces," said Ms. Wilkinson. *Queen Anne-Style Mirror*, \$1,183, horchow.com



## SOLUTION 3

## Combine whimsy and boldness in a tile.

Brooklyn designer Rachel Newton sought an intricate geometric pattern to help the right-angled vanity and the ornate étagère get along, "but I didn't want anything too familiar," she said. "The gilded piece is so whimsical, I wanted to add some playfulness." More cheeky than a checkerboard, this pattern provides gaiety, while both the subtle veining in the Italian marble and the blossoming vine entwining the shelves are rooted in the natural world. *New Ravenna Lancaster Large Tile*, \$77 a square foot, Ann Sacks, 800-278-8453



Tom Hanks,  
*Hidden Heroes Chair*

# HEROES HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

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## FRESH PICK



'Three Waves Meeting' by Eric and Martin Demaine, from 'New Expressions in Origami Art'

## ABOVE AND BEYOND THE FOLD

As two new books show, origami can be delightful craft or mind-boggling sculpture

IF YOU'VE SEEN a 3-D printer in action or strapped on a virtual-reality headset, you might assume mere origami couldn't impress you. But what if we told you the Asian technique associated with mundane paper cranes and childish cootie catchers can also transform a single sheet of paper into a lifelike relief portrait or an M.C. Escher-esque form? Or twist pages of religious texts into an artful political statement? These are just some of the implausible projects featured in Meher McArthur's "New Expressions in Origami Art: Masterworks from 25 Leading Paper Artists" (*Tuttle, March*). Former NASA scientist Robert J. Lang, one of the origamists whose work appears in the book, recently gave a TED Talk on the complex math behind the craft. During childhood, he started with simple designs "almost entirely from books purchased or checked out of local libraries," he said. For



## PAPER ROUTES

A compendium of Origami masterpieces, above, and a guide to 15 unique but less-ambitious projects, right

amateurs looking to earn friends' approval with origami décor, "Paper Home: Beautifully Unique Origami Projects" (*Pavilion, February*), by Esther Thorpe, offers doable steps to more modest but still unpredictable creations, like lampshades or

multi-pointed stars. Except for the truly jaded, noted Dr. Lang, people are generally surprised by what one unprepossessing piece of paper can yield, whether it's a wee basket or a hyper-detailed arachnid of his own creation.

—Tim Gavan