

# BAMA HARPER'S

LUXURY SURVEY

DECEMBER 2010, ₹100

INDIA



FREIDA PINTO

BEST OF  
RESORT  
& PARTY

BEAUTY:  
EVENING

CHIC  
IN THE

## FABRIC OF INDIA

ound the world, a new definition of luxury is emerging. All things made hand—exclusive, irreplaceable, and unique—fall under the ambit of this rising trend. And coupled with the planet's growing need for socially responsible methods and techniques of production, the luxury of the future lies with all that is small-scale. And this is where malkha comes in. It is a special fabric woven by skilled weaver families on handlooms in Indian villages, from cotton grown by small-holder farmer families. Malkha, and fabrics like it, "are the future of luxury", says Italian-American designer Peter d'Ascoli.

Spun on specialised machines that keep the softness of the fibres alive, the yarn is woven on handlooms into fabric that resembles khadi, but has the

drape and fall of silk. It also holds colour better than most other handwoven textiles. Sounds good, doesn't it? And d'Ascoli, along with like-minded fellow designers Mayank Mansingh Kaul and Aneeth Arora of Péro, embarked on a creative journey earlier this year. "Knowing of Aneeth's and my love for all things indigenous, Mayank suggested that we all work with malkha to create a unique product," explains d'Ascoli.

After a successful showing at *Mélange* in Mumbai this October, the trio will soon take on Delhi, where Ogaan at the Santushti complex will host their second exhibition-cum-sale on December 1. "Both Mayank and Aneeth have worked with malkha before," says d'Ascoli. "But as a foreigner, it's something amazing for me. It cannot be reproduced by a faceless machine. That's why it's such a hit." ■ Varun Rana



Mayank Mansingh Kaul, Aneeth Arora, and Peter d'Ascoli; left: a malkha tunic designed by Kaul.



INDIA-CHIC

FROM TOP: COURTESY NUPUR VIKAS; ANEETH ARORA; MAYANK MANSINGH KAUL; PETER D'ASCOLI