

la femme

TIMELESS STYLE AND ELEGANCE



Amazing Grace

AN ICON REMEMBERED.

An Elegant Controversy

HOW THE TROUSER SUIT
BECAME A SYMBOL OF
FREEDOM & EQUALITY.

GILDED WORLD

BEHIND THE
SCENES WITH
DOLCE & GABBANA.

Plus

CATE BLANCHETT'S
INIMITABLE STYLE.
AT HOME WITH
L'WREN SCOTT.
MIU MIU'S MUSES.



SPOTLIGHT:
basil soda
 NEW WAVE COUTURIER

His couture is classic, elegant, eminently wearable and globally admired, yet the man who has dressed the red-carpet beauties of our day (Marion Cotillard, Emily Blunt and Katy Perry are among his clients) is happy to call the Middle East – specifically Beirut – home. Having cut his fashion teeth at the hallowed halls of Elie Saab, fashion designer and couturier Basil Soda opened the doors to his own house in 2001. Originally

an architect, he follows in the sartorial footprints of Gianfranco Ferré and Tom Ford – whose work he ardently admires – to create finely cut silhouettes with pure, beautifully balanced shapes and exquisite details. Yet, despite their obvious glamour, his dresses are designed to be worn by real women; his couture creations are painstakingly hand-crafted in a Beirut atelier that is brimming with rich fabrics, decadent lace and opulent

WORDS: JOLA CHUDY / IMAGES COURTESY OF BASIL SODA

“WHEN YOU ARE DEALING WITH LUXURY, IT NEEDS TO BE USABLE FOR LONGER SO YOU CAN WEAR IT FOR YEARS TO COME AND STILL FEEL CONFIDENT” — BASIL SODA

accessories. In 2010 he launched his first ready-to-wear collection. Timelessness and the enduring appeal of his designs are at the heart of his work; his latest collection is full of ornate detailing, from feathers and crystals to fringes and intricate embroidery. Fabrics such as organza, sheer silk and delicate tulle feature along with gabardine, while elements such as gold stitching, beads and other embellishments sparkle against

a sophisticated palette of blacks, deep greens, whites and golds. It’s a masterful, decadently visual collection that cements the designer’s position as an exciting and now established talent.

“When you are dealing with luxury, it needs to be usable for longer so you can wear it for years to come and still feel confident,” notes Soda. “This is important for me when I am doing a collection.” A man after *La Femme’s* own heart. ■