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Project Runway

She's hip. She's fashionable. And yes, she's friendly, too and so [New York](#). Meet Kara Janx, a native South African who has called [Manhattan](#) her home for the past nine years. Having made the cut to the [Final Four](#) on Season 2 of Project Runway, there's no doubt about it: this fab [designer](#) is making her mark, one garment at a time.

We caught up with the rising star's personal appearance at Girlshop Boutique in the trendy Meatpacking District in Manhattan. Sponsored by *New York Magazine* and *Girlshop*, the soiree was held to preview her fall collection. Known for their hip clothing and accessories of "what to wear" for everything from [martinis](#) with the girls to making a cameo in the Hamptons, Girlshop (located at 819 Washington (between Gansevoort and Little W. 12 th and online at www.girlshop.com) is the go-to store for those in the know.

We caught up with the rising designer and got the first look at her latest collection. We at *Factio* loved the capped sleeve kimono dress (\$220) in 100% super luxurious silk. Cut to hug and flatter all of your curves, the kimono-inspired shape with wide contract trim in a subtle but striking color combo (think maroon with pink, emerald with jade, chocolate with [cinnamon](#), among some of the color combinations). For Janx, the urban Manhattan lifestyle is reflected in all of her designs. "They're feminine with an urban slant," says the fashionista. In fact, her kimono dress is already on two-week back order on her website and fashion

forecasters predict it will be the "it" item to wear this fall. She has also expanded into menswear, hats, bikinis, and underwear.

While this designer is known in the industry for her hand cut and hand screened pieces, [lending](#) itself to a very tactile finish, a designer's work isn't easy, often toiling away long hours in an isolated environment. As for her inspiration? "My sister in-law, Maya," explains a friendly Kara as she greets well wishers in the stylish boutique. Since her line is sold in sixty boutiques worldwide, the hip, colorful, and functional clothing serves as a creative outlet. Kara continues, "She's my sounding board." In fact, one of the latest designs for fall includes the Maya Silk Wrap Skirt, available on her website.

As for the length of time it takes to work on a piece, as you can imagine with the creative design process, it could be, "Bursts of inspiration," she notes. Or, it could be a continuous labor of love as she also notes, who has been perfecting her craft since 2002.

So, how does this busy Project Runway success story run her business, create new designs, and have time to mingle with her adoring fans? "[Vitamin B](#)," she says with a smile.

For more information, check out www.karajanx.com.

- Vicki Salemi, New York correspondent

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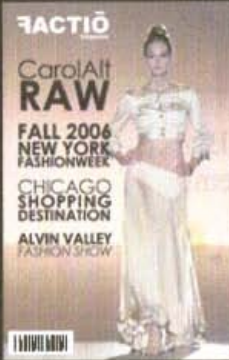
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