

FINDINGS

HAUTE BROWSING: The Foundation de la Haute Horlogerie hopes to put the world of fine watchmaking at everyone's fingertips. The organization, created in 2005 in Geneva to promote and develop the craft and its industry, has launched a Web site, hautehorlogerie.org.

Visitors to the site can search for a wide variety of information, from the latest news on the business and events to practical bits of information like how to care for a fine timepiece. More erudite fans can also brush up on the A to Z of watchmaking, whether they want to know when the spiral spring balance was invented or figure out the difference between a bow lathe, a feuille and a pinion.

POSI'N' FOR POSEN: Zac Posen seems to have developed an interest in collaborations. In the past year, he has created everything from jeans with Seven For All Mankind to hosiery for Wolford and driving gloves for Jaguar. His newest project is a camera bag that he developed for the Coolpix Nikon digital camera.

"We tried to combine luxury and form," Posen said. "We looked at oval cases from the Forties and Fifties. My aim was to add warmth to the technology and make something incredibly cute that looks timeless."

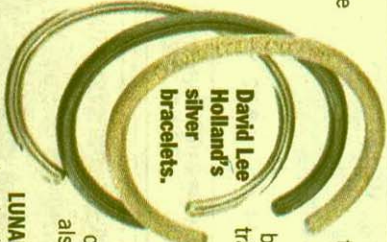
The oval-shape dark and light brown quilted camera bag is also just what the designer needed for himself.

"I take photos all the time and I always shoot the fabrics I use in the collections to see how they look when they are photographed," he said.

ON TRACK AT NPD: The NPD Group has announced that it will develop its first



Zac Posen's camera bag for Nikon.



David Lee Holland's silver bracelets.

tracking service for the U.S. accessories business. The sales and marketing information company, based in Port Washington, N.Y., said it plans to launch the service in the first half of 2007. The tracking service is expected to cover sales of women's and men's bags and luggage in department and national chain stores. It eventually will expand to track other categories, including watches, jewelry, sunglasses and small leather goods.

AN AGE OF THE SPADES: Kate and Andy Spade are putting their money where the art is. The husband-and-wife team is underwriting a new work to be created by U.S. artist Lawrence Weiner. The work, an installation called "[Lo & Behold] [Mira & Ve]" will appear at Florida International University's Wolfsonian museum in celebration of art fair Art Basel/Miami Beach, which kicks off Dec. 7. The Spades are also the sponsors of the Wolfsonian's Art Basel/Miami Beach party, to be held Dec. 8.

LUNAR MODULE: Manhattan fine jeweler David Lee Holland often uses nature as the inspiration for his 18-karat gold pieces fashioned in the shapes of leaves or acorns. But for his new silver collection, he looked to the sky.

"I liked the idea of incorporating the moon into jewelry," said Holland. Holland's first silver collection features slim solid bangles with luminescent finishes and elegant chain-link bracelets and necklaces with aquamarines or garnet drops. The collection opened at retail at the designer's SoHo store last month at prices ranging from \$650 to \$2,500. Wholesale distribution to select jewelry stores is expected to follow in the next six months.



De Beers' Alyce Alston with Tameka Foster and Usher.

PERFORMANCE ART: The evening of Sept. 27 ended on a high note for De Beers on Fifth Avenue in New York. The fine jewelry store, which had opened its doors to celebrate the launch of Maestro, the new young patrons program for the New York City Opera, filled with music when performers Georgia Jarman and Leonardo Capalbo belted out a few arias for the crowd of more than 300 guests. Singer Usher sneaked in for the second set of tunes and listened admiringly before making his way over to the jewelry, which included the premiere of the house's Secrets of the Rose collection.

PHOTO BY SCOTT RUDD/PMC