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LABEL Julian Chang

TRICIA FIX
LABEL Tricia Fix

CLAUDIA CAPORAL
LABEL RYGY

AMANDA PATTERSON
LABEL Dex & Stella

introducing ... **the new** style network

Meet Miami's magnificent eight — fresh-faced fashion designers whose sophisticated and sultry styles are as magnetic as the city they call their muse.

STORY **LORI CAPULLO** PHOTOGRAPHY **ROBIN HILL**
SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE **MANDARIN ORIENTAL MIAMI**

RYGY **CLAUDIA CAPORAL | WOMEN'S SWIMWEAR**

Brazilian women are legendary for their bold, sexy style, particularly when it comes to swimwear. And no one knows that better than the team behind RYGY (pronounced Ree-jhee). The Miami-based “beach couture lifestyle” company’s mission is to show American women how to incorporate this sense of style into their own lives, feel comfortable with it and enjoy it. “Our pieces are meant to help you feel dressed up from the moment you leave your house until you return and to provide everything you need for that experience — bags, tunics, shoes, you name it,” says Claudia Caporal, the company’s director of lifestyle. “In Brazil, women live on the beach and really enjoy the experience. They bring 10 bikinis to the beach and change throughout the day. It’s very important that the cut and fabric be perfect, because you’re half-naked and you want to feel your best.”

Even though “Miami is the closest thing to Rio in America,” says Caporal, 100 percent of the line in America is done with a U.S. cut to ensure that the customer is comfortable. “Those teeny-weeny bikinis we see in Brazil don’t sell in North America. It’s a cultural thing,” says Ricardo Caporal, also a RYGY principal and Claudia’s husband, who grew up in Miami and lives there today.

RYGY’s 2008 collection evokes the African culture in both colors and patterns and is embellished with metallic threads and sequins, gold and silver hardware, and reflective details. And the company continues to expand — environmentally sensitive green products are in the works.

Where to buy: Intermix, Bal Harbour, 305.993.1232, and South Beach, 305.531.5950, intermixonline.com; Scoop boutique at the Shore Club, Miami Beach, 305.532.5929

Sneak peek: rygy.com

BIGGEST INSPIRATION

The ladylike femininity of women from the '50s is a constant inspiration in all that I create.

FASHIONISTA HANG-OUT

I like drinks at the Catalina on Collins Avenue — tons of gorgeous models with serious fashion sense. (catalinahotel.com)

THE ULTIMATE FLORIDA STYLE Nothing says Florida style better than a fab tan and a fantastic bikini.

