

Shop Talk

Comments

Introducing: Stacey Zhang, Queen West's newest indie retailer



From Montreal to Toronto, Stacey Zhang seeks to outfit sassy nine-to-fivers (Image: Adam Moco)

The place: Independent retailers have [struggled](#) to stay in business on Queen Street east of Spadina, as most have been left covering in the shadow of retail giants like French Connection and Zara. In a long-vacant space along this stretch, Montreal designer Stacey Zhang has opened a new location, hoping to lure her Toronto online customers and new fans with the shop's airy high ceilings and [Sex and the City](#) colour palette.

The stuff: Budget-friendly, Canadian-made nine-to-five garb with a twist and day-to-night pieces are Zhang's specialty. A plaid Peter Pan-collared button-up shirt-dress (\$165), a graphic-print jacket with an oversize belt (\$175), a sheer black short-sleeved button-up blouse (\$125) and a gathered white Oxford (\$125) all seemed perfect for spring.

The shoppers: Precocious and professional 20-something and adventurous 40-something women looking for work-appropriate clothing that's neither boring nor typical of a chain store.

Our favourite things: We think the standard work uniform of skirt and blazer can be quite boring, which is why we like that Zhang is bringing some sass to separates and standard-issue frocks. We recommend taking a risk with purple and beige linen harem pants (\$145), a convertible dress altered by a nautical-rope pulley system (\$148), a dramatic gingham-print raincoat (\$215) or a black cropped jacket with zip-off sleeves (\$175). Finally, it seems there's a new remedy to ward off the matronly siren song of a local Talbots.

Stacey Zhang, 292 Queen Street West, 647.346.2889, staceyzhang.com

