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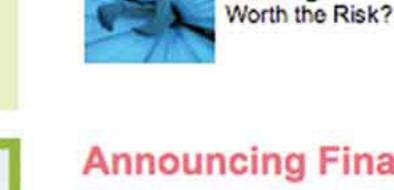
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Announcing Finalists in the Independent Handbag Designer Awards (Photos) by Emma Grady, New York, NY on 05.22.11 > Tweet

FASHION & BEAUTY

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Designer 101. More than 1,000 independent handbag designers submitted their designs for a chance to win the esteemed 2011 Independent Handbag Designer Award hosted by InStyle

An artisan-made crochet and aluminum soda pop bag. Photo: courtesy Handbag

submissions. I saw a lot of innovative, creative, and weird bags. Here are the best bags out of the finalists who made the cut:





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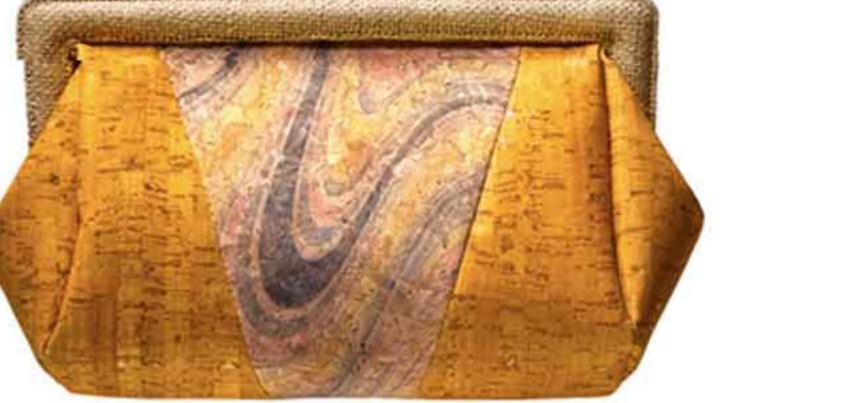
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It took us more than five hours to view all of the applicants but we eventually narrowed them down. Fortunately, I was sitting pretty in a playful no-waste skirt in Ikat fabric made by my friend Tara St. James, winner of the 2011 Ecco Domani for her fashion



label Study NY. (You can find the skirt in-store at Bird or International Playground.)

Among the finalists in the Green and Socially Responsible Handbag category, the

following bags rise above the rest:

Photo: Past Fashion Future

it your A new parenting site from TLC. Because parenthood doesn't come with

a manual.



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Mathis Vackernagel Interview



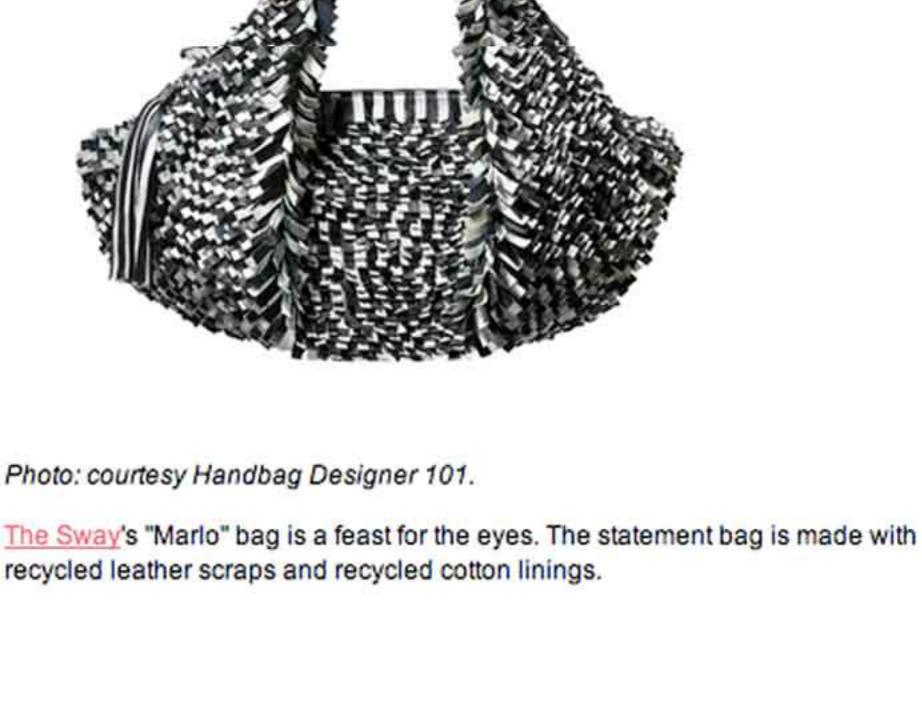
granola."

Photo: courtesy Handbag Designer 101.

The "Fiona Cork" bag by Jess Rizzuti New York, which has a cork body, burlap handle

and cotton lining. I like how the wavy pattern compliments the texture of the cork and

though it looks like it's made with natural materials, it looks more glam than "crunchy





Cyclist Argues

Hilarous Video

(Stereo)Typology

Cars + Transportation

> Against Bike-Lane Police Fine In

 10 High-Tech Bike Accessories to Improve Your Commute

(Slideshow)

of Cyclists

This chic clutch by Mei Vintage handbags is made with leather remnants and lined with hemp fabric. View the finalists across all categories, including InStyle Red Carpet Ready Evening Bag, Best Student Made Handbag Inspired by the Colors of vitaminwater, and more, in the video below.