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the
evolution
of Aesthetic

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surveillance

Data space Image Phil Nutley

The interior of London's **Vexed Generation** boutique mocks the inundation of surveillance systems into our public lives. The retail floor is laid with a plasticine "database," which maps out consumer habits by recording the density of customer footprints. Founded in 1994 by Adam Thorpe and Joe Hunter, Vexed Generation is a forerunner of "futuristic" urban gear that comments on contemporary sociological issues. The theme of the flagship store changes each year. In the most recent evolution, "Label Database," personal labels created from Vexed's mailing list are quilted onto padded calico walls. Visitors can sew on their own labels or embroider personal messages. This September, Vexed will use the fabric to make jackets and parkas, a fashion statement regarding issues of privacy, identity and community. Debunking the myth of the brand-name logo, the recycled garments will reflect past customers' responses to the Vexed ethos. The company's own official tag simply states its web address: www.vexed.co.uk **Zoe Ryan**

Image Steve Seleska

POELL VAULT

Carol Christian Poell approaches womenswear with the sexual audacity of Mapplethorpe and the primal femininity of *Clan of the Cave Bear*. In his Fe-Male 99-00 collection, he anoints textiles with bull's blood and parchment oils, "created to weather and distress with age." Renowned for his uninhibited take on menswear, his women's collection exhibits masterful tailoring, including classically cut skirts and single-pleat trousers. Playfully, he adds asexual "pantskirts" and woolen "dick" trousers into the mix. Accessories include toeless silk/leather stockings and a gathered pigskin ruff belt defiantly positioned on the girth of the hip. *At Yasmin Cho, London; Ron Herman, NYC* **Collette McGruder**



Blank>Space Image Jeanne Stack

Having thoroughly outfitted the airy retail environs of the Gap and Banana Republic, **Blank & Cables** brings its smart, easy interior solutions to consumers. Working out of overcrowded San Francisco, designer Walter Craven has clued into the current demand for intelligent furniture suited to smaller living spaces. The debut collection of home furnishings combines natural and synthetic materials in economic, ergonomic shapes. Several of the designs also flip, slide and stack for multiple conveniences. www.blankandcables.com **Christina Stevenson**



image Steve Seleska

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