

VOGUE

MAR

MICHELLE OBAMA

THE FIRST
LADY
THE WORLD'S
BEEN
WAITING
FOR



**SPRING
FASHION SPECIAL**
Every Look That Matters

SUPER POWERS!

Queen Rania of Jordan
Carla Bruni-Sarkozy
Melinda Gates



closet case

manju jasty

An Indian-born banker turned bijou designer keeps it simple.



in my banking days, I wore tailored suits in a neutral palette, but now that I run my own company, I reach for less structured pieces—dresses and skirts—and incorporate more color. While I draw on my heritage's aesthetic of bright shades and ornate designs, my personal style is considerably more toned down. My absolute favorite designer is Alber Elbaz; his designs are

modern yet feminine, a combination rarely executed well. I have never met a **Lanvin** cocktail dress I didn't like; also vintage **Missoni** and **Etro** are favorites. For the weekend, it's **Gucci jumpers** and **Stella McCartney dresses**.

As inspiration for my work, I look to the architecture of Indian palaces and the elaborate textiles for which the subcontinent is known. Jewelry is such an intrinsic part of the culture. The maharajas bejeweled every part of their bodies and their houses; even the ivory handles of their weapons were studded with rubies and emeralds. I err on the side of simplicity with a pair of knockout earrings (my own—I'm biased). I don't like to fuss over clothes; it takes the joy out of getting dressed.

—AS TOLD TO GENEVIEVE BAHRENBURG



CULTURE FLASH
LEFT: DESIGNER MANJU JASTY; HER CHANDELIER EARRINGS; BARNEYS NEW YORK.