

DRESS FOR DINNER

Ken adores green

With an eye for detail and girl-width hips, Neiman Marcus Creative Director **Ken Downing** is quite frankly the perfect fit for fashion.

Downing moseyed down from Dallas for the Dress for Dinner fete hosted by mother-daughter duo **Yvonne Cormier** and **Claire Cormier Thielke**. And with models taking a walk on the wild side via a cheetah-carpeted catwalk, Mr. D showed leading ladies like **Leisa Holland Nelson**, **Gracie Cavnar**



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and **Jenni Mithoff** his fall must-have list.

Designers took their fall inspiration from PBS's

"Downton Abbey," whose menswear dressing was interpreted with smoking slippers (store those Chanel ballet flats), structured jackets and a layering of brooches. Don't toss your summer neoprene or your day-glo pieces, for these strong summer themes continue into September with green taking the coveted "it" hue spot. Downing's top dressing rules mock the once-claimed fashion cardinal sins where patent knows no season and navy is the new neutral. Twenty-seven Recipe For Success — www.recipeforsuccess.org — celebs dined with Downing after the show and, surprisingly, the in-crowd ate. (Caterer Culinaire's feast defeated size 00 willpower).

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Claire Cormier Thielke, left, and Yvonne Cormier



Gracie Cavnar and Bob Devlin



Jenni Mithoff, left, and Jeanne Marosis



Dr. Lois Vann, left, and Dr. Kelly Coleman



A model wears a Roberto Cavalli jacket and dress.

Priscilla Dickson photos



Jeff Shell, left, and Ken Downing