

# Fresh Faces of Greenwich

THE NEW STORES JUST KEEP COMING



## ELLA VICKERS

Most of us recycle glass, paper and plastic. Ella Vickers takes it a step—or a leap—further. She recycles yacht sails and turns them into bags: duffel bags, totes, clutches, grocery bags, backpacks, garment bags, yoga bags.... She also fashions sailcloth dog beds, shower curtains, umbrellas, and deck chairs and cushions. The former first mate on a classic America's Cup winner, Ella sailed smoothly from that victory to a winning idea by turning the discarded sail from that boat into a set of bags. The line took off and now rather than finding Vickers on the open sea, she can be found at her sewing machine—right in the back corner of her boutique. **85 Greenwich Avenue;** Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun.–Mon. 12 p.m.–5 p.m.; [ellavickers.com](http://ellavickers.com)

## FRENCH SOLE

Women seeking shoes that are both chic and comfortable flock to this Upper East Side boutique. Angelica Houston, Liza Minelli, Cindy Crawford, the Duchess of York—they're all fans. Now Fumé Gurbuz, daughter of the New York store's owner and codesigner of previous lines, brings French Sole to Greenwich. With the ballet flat's recent popularity surge,

rendering it a wardrobe staple for everyone from high school girls to grandmothers, not to mention the current trend toward taking everything down a notch, her timing couldn't be better. The rows and rows of ballet flats (every color and style imaginable), ballet pumps and loafers are a glorious sight to behold, especially for one whose feet and back hate high heels. Fumé, like her shoes, is lovely and approachable. French Sole is sure to give Greenwich a new definition of well-heeled. **160 Greenwich Avenue;** Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; [Frenchsolegreenwich.com](http://Frenchsolegreenwich.com)



## OLIVINE GABBRO

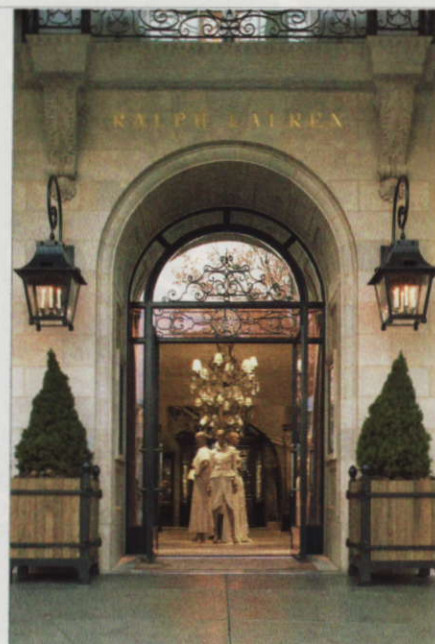
Greenwich native and Parsons graduate Grace King launched her fashion line, Olivine Gabbro, in 2004. Now her faithful clientele and those who have yet to discover her eclectic creations can find her dazzling gowns, sophisticated

women's wear and unique jewelry at the new Olivine Gabbro boutique on East Elm, a shop she co-owns with fellow Greenwich resident Sue Neumann. They will also find the designer herself. "I'm right here in the store," says Grace, "so shopping here is quite different than at a typical retail store." If a customer wants a one-of-a-kind dress, she will custom-make one in about three months. Grace promises personal attention from start to finish and results that bring out a woman's inner beauty (Olivine Gabbro, the name of a semiprecious stone, means "inner beauty"). Architecture is one of the key influences in her designs, and European cathedrals inspired the intricate lace and embroidery work in her collection. Stop in to see what spring will bring or to order a graduation, cotillion or wedding gown—Grace's specialties.

**19 East Elm Street;**  
Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.;  
[Olivinegabbro.com](http://Olivinegabbro.com)

## RALPH LAUREN

Step through the doors in the regal Beaux Arts façade at 265 Greenwich Avenue and enter not just a Ralph Lauren store but a Ralph Lauren microcosm. In a crisp-white, soft-cream and chocolate-brown world, palatial high ceilings and chandeliers give way to rooms lined with pictures of horses and hunting gear; past a towering stone horse upstairs, a rustic ski lodge beckons; a



gorgeous salesperson in riding boots and pants paired with a cashmere wrap strolls by looking like a model from the latest Ralph Lauren ad. No company knows how to sell the luxe-Americana dream better than Ralph Lauren. The breathtaking 19,000-square-foot store will seduce anyone into wanting a piece of that world, in the form of women's fashion (including Black Label, Collection, Blue Label and Polo), men's wear (including Purple Label and Polo), accessories (from handbags and watches to luxury shoes for both men and women) and the Ralph Lauren Home Collection. **265 Greenwich Avenue;** Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sun. 12 p.m.–6 p.m.; [ralphlauren.com](http://ralphlauren.com)  
—Jill Johnson

