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STYLE
By HILARY SHEINBAUM

Tracy Reese on 'Project Runway' guest-judge stint and spring fashions



Photo credit: From left: Tracy Reese, Nina Garcia, Rachel Roy and Heidi Klum

Tracy Reese can now add "Project Runway" guest judge to her already impressive resume — which includes designing Michelle Obama's 2012 Democratic National Convention dress. The fashion designer, whose episode aired on Lifetime on Thursday, stopped by her West Village store Wednesday to dish all things "Runway" and style.

What's your favorite piece of advice that you give on "Project Runway?" It's important for new and aspiring designers to have a vision and stick with it, no matter what obstacles come up. Stepping outside of the current trends and trying something different, and working twice as hard to achieve the vision, is key to reaching certain goals as a fashion designer.

Is this similar to advice you've been given? The best advice [I've ever received] was, 'You don't have to follow the trend of the moment.' ... This advice is most important to me throughout my design process each season. I design each and every piece keeping the woman who wears my designs top-of-mind and making sure she is going to feel confident ... [and] comfortable at the same time.

What do you suggest for a day-to-date or a day-to-dinner outfit? Adding a layer or a key accessory can take any outfit up a notch. A stunning belt, a killer heel or a fabulous leather jacket all upgrade a look instantly.

Let's talk trends. What are you most looking forward to for spring? Color! It has been such a long winter that I'm ready to greet the warm weather with colors like kelly green and bright yellow.