

## Unifying States with Bonafide Style

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While some fashionistas may fail to brush up on history ... others choose to research current rising designers and anticipated trends. For the fabulous fashion followers that rarely pick up a text book- Italy's unification began in 1815 and ended in 1871 with the Franco-Prussian War... and for those history buffs that are a bit behind on global style trends- Italian designer Alexandra Stelzer's line "De Call" was founded in 1993. Alexandra, together with her mother and sister, founded De Call with the hope to create "Haute Couture." Not only were they successful in creating Alexandra's elegant textural collection, displaying neutral dresses and simple silk and chiffon pieces, but also the Stelzer's were able to establish a line that caters to Italians, Chinese and Americans, uniting cultures through Alexandra's artistic eye.



Similar to how Italy was unified during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Alexandra Stelzer hopes to introduce her line, De Call, to other areas, integrating Italian fashion into other cultures. While her previous collections are heavily influenced by Italy, Alexandra finds that traveling to other large cities similarly impacts her work. In an interview with an Italian publication, Alessandra discusses her love for travel. "First of all, (my inspiration comes) from my frequent trips abroad. I love the big city life. Rome, Paris, but am also attracted to China." It is clear that diverse cultures fascinate Alexandra, but it is her ability to blend multiple cultures into one, creating timeless pieces, instead of simply portraying distinct aspects of an individual culture that sets Alexandra apart. Alexandra's attention to detail, specifically her frequent use of folds and her dependence on texture, depicts the unique aspects of the various landscapes Stelzer has explored. Her dresses lightly flow and drape at the female frame, embodying *any* ocean's ebb, while the neutral silk and chiffon used in her dresses illustrate the soft natural tones of the earth's soil and mountains. Alexandra's line represents the idea that *all* places inspire and weave together into one natural fabric.

Soon enough De Call will migrate to the states and fill the racks of boutique stores, bringing America that much closer to it's own unification with Italy.