

This Hotel Is About to Get Some Seriously Stylish Uniforms

And the cool part is, you can help choose them.

BY JONATHAN EVANS



In a world where ramen restaurant employees [can roll up to work in gear from one of New York's finest cult-favorite labels](#)—Engineered Garments, for those taking notes—the idea of the uniform as an unstylish and purely utilitarian concern is officially dead and buried. Still, though I'd happily take a gig at Ippudo just to snag an EG jacket, I can't say I'd do the same to score an average bellhop's rig.

Well, things are taking a turn in that department. NYC's Refinery Hotel recently launched an online contest to decide which fashion label's design will become the new uniform of its rooftop bar, aptly dubbed the Refinery Rooftop. To source some talent, the establishment turned to the folks behind New York Men's Day, which has kicked off men's fashion week in the States for the last three years by showcasing up-and-coming designers.

"We work very closely with Refinery Hotel to incorporate exciting and innovative partnerships into our [food and beverage] spaces," explains Rob McGovern, the food and beverage director of In Good Company Hospitality, which manages the Refinery Rooftop. "With the hotel's millinery factory roots, this fashion collaboration with such talented emerging designers was a perfect fit—pun intended."

The four designs on the table come from R. Swiader, David Naman, Bristol, and Uri Minkoff. They're a whole lot more interesting than your run-of-the-mill cater-waiter get-up, and voting runs until March 10. [Head over to Facebook to cast your ballot](#), and get a better look at the designs and their inspiration below.

R. Swiader



"I wanted to combine elements of functionality, comfort, and style to make sure the employees look and feel their best. For me, it is all about the details in my designs because, after all, it really is what makes clothes more fun and special." — **Rafal Swiader**

David Naman



"We travel all over the world looking for inspiration, but sometimes you can find it in the simplest of places. Hotels and planes are a constant in our line of work. What frequently strikes me is why most of the staff are dressed so sterile and rigid. We love personality—we love detailed vests, contrast fabrics in our trousers—we love playing with shape and definition. Being hip without trying to be hip, confident that your personality shines through your attire. Your uniform shouldn't define what you are, but who you are." — **David Naman**

Uri Minkoff



"I wanted to design a fashion-forward uniform that met the comfort and functionality every staff member needs." — **Uri Minkoff**

Bristol



"I'm hoping to achieve a refreshing balance that pays homage to traditional workwear, but feels more elevated, playful, and refined. For example, the trousers are baggy, constructed from a heavyweight wool to lend structure to the pants. However, within it, there are slits in the pants on either side, near the knee, revealing a delicate silk inner. As the person wearing the pants moves and bends his/her knees, the silk inner will be revealed through the slits." — **Luke Tadashi**