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in the shops

Calleen Cordero on Beverly Boulevard

Metallic studs, whose hard-rock origins once limited their appeal at the suburban mall, have gone mainstream, adopted by the most prominent high-end designers. Christian Louboutin applies sharp studs to everything from dressy pumps to sneaks, Jimmy Choo dresses up his handbags with them, and Roberto Cavalli uses them to give his leather jackets a little attitude. But you can't fully appreciate the new role of fashion hardware until you visit the Beverly Boulevard boutique of Calleen Cordero.

Cordero's shop is a narrow boîte whose mirrored walls make its 1,000 square-foot space feel larger than it really is. The diminutive slice of chic retail is a tasteful study in earth tones by artist, sculptor and furniture designer Alwy Visschedyk. Beneath chandeliers whose hanging globes resemble elegant bunches of white balloons are sleek chaise longues and other furniture created by Cordero and Visschedyk–trimmed with the same alder wood that goes into the designer's shoes. Walls are accented with Honduran mahogany. Leather stools at the cashier counter in the rear are punctuated with the designer's signature metallic studs.

With her tousled blond hair, Cordero could be mistaken for one of the stars who patronize her store, which has been discovered by the likes of Eva Mendes, Christina Aguilera and Kate Hudson. But Cordero is a savvy