

Who is this band of brothers behind the "seams" creating phat designs? Who is on the team that has been behind the curtains increasing the market value of the likes of music and fashion magnates Russet Simmons and P. Diddy with original creations so these industry phenomena can bow center stage? No, its not the producing tandem, the Neptunes. You are close but a little off the mark. It is not the music but its offspring-hip hop fashions. In fact, it is the clothing design team Intricate Concepts.

Intricate Concepts is a graphic design company located in New York City and dedicated to the garment industry. "The majority of our business [involves] packaging to the [treatment of the] actual garment itself. "We design and spec out the garment that is made overseas" offers Raymond Wong. This creative genius bears the title of Commander, which requires him to finalize and oversee all projects. Educated at Pratt and Parsons, he and his team are like a breathe of fresh air for the urban clothing companies like Sean John, Phat Farm, Avirex, Girbaud, And 1, Timberland, and even Budweiser. "When you go to these different clothing companies they have in-house designers. You get those designers that can't produce anymore. They are copying different ideas, according to Wong. "We come in and clean house as far as design is concerned." Creatively his forte is illustration. Interestingly enough, when the firm opens various fashion and lifestyle magazines, they see their creations, bearing others' labels. This will soon change.

By 2004, Intricate Concepts will be launching its own line of clothes, per their Secret Agent, Tarikh Commodore. "We are going to add to the fashion industry because we design and think out of the box. We are dedicated and love it to the point that we work to five o'clock in the morning. We live it; we breathe it."

Revolutionary in their thinking and with multicultural backgrounds, they are about to blow this thing we call fashion out of the water. Sprinkling us with versatility, the sky is the limit when it comes to their creations."We are pigeonholed. We are much more than just [urban]", expresses Wong, "We don't have a target market. We believe and know that we are versatile. We have done urban, Sean John [and] Timberland, which are crossover brands."

This multicultural quintet boasts of backgrounds and disciplines from Asia to Africa. Raymond Wong is of Chinese descent. Tomas Kohoutek (Ground Unit) , educated at FIT and Parsons. Raymond Rios (Captain) is of Puerto Rican descent. Joseph Mbeh (General), educated at Cooper Union, is a native of Africa. Last Hailing From the Bronx, is their African American Street Lieutenant and Agent Tarikh Commodore (a.k.a...Ty-Hands). He was educated at Cooper Union.

Delighting us with assorted knowledge from various parts of the world, the average age of these brothers is 25. "We have an extensive knowledge of the industry because we have been ghostwriting behind established brands and the records show that," Wong chimes. As freelancers they are currently working on four to five different projects. These young guys are very talented and diversified. They share their experience and illustrate their knowledge and different backgrounds in their creations. Metaphorically they are the Neptunes of fashion; humble about the creativity they have brought to the fashion industry but au fait when it comes to the variety they bring. Visit: www.intricateconcepts.com

-Yvette Caslin

