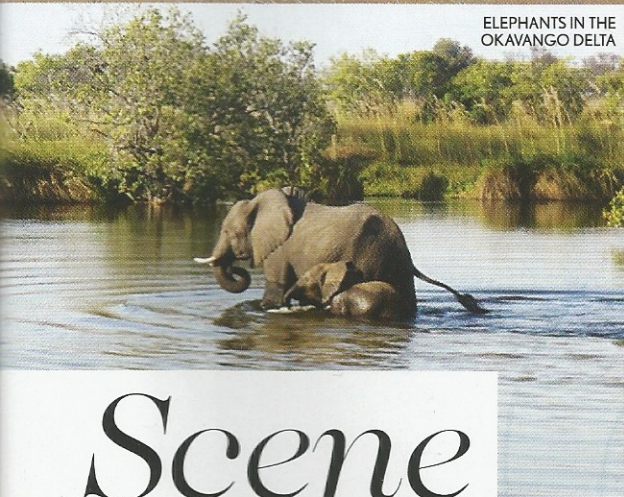




CAROLINE WITH WOMEN OF THE KALAHARI SAN, BOTSWANA



ELEPHANTS IN THE OKAVANGO DELTA



CAROLINE ON THE STEPS OF A TRADITIONAL HUT IN THE VILLAGE OF GWETA, BOTSWANA

Scene STEALERS

From the African bush to London's skyline, three new designers are taking inspiration from their surroundings. By Ellen Burney

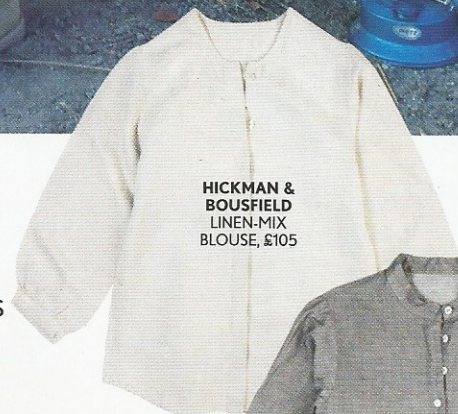
CAROLINE HICKMAN of Hickman & Bousfield

A safari camp is a little bit of fantasy and always reminds me of a film set," says the African-based British designer Caroline Hickman, who moved to Botswana three years ago and this month launches a safari-inspired collection of jackets, crisp white shirts, chinos and culottes with her friend Justine Luxton. "It's usually a once-in-a-lifetime trip and people want to look the part," she continues. Named also after Hickman's boyfriend, Ralph Bousfield, who runs safari camps, the label is steeped in nostalgia. "I wanted it to sound as if it was from a bygone era, when people used to go on a safari for six months. They would be measured up by a safari outfitter on arrival and, two days later, their wardrobe would be delivered to their hotel."

The idea for the line was triggered by the style of a family friend. "She was brushing her teeth on the banks of a river, dressed in her late husband's army dress shirt. He was about 6ft 2in while she was a foot shorter

— she looked so cool in this crisp white shirt that came down to her knees." An old-fashioned quality and attention to detail runs through Hickman's designs, thanks to her endless rifling of junk stores in Durban and markets in Cape Town and Ethiopia. Scarves take their cue from Masai weaving techniques, while the cotton drill culottes are inspired by a pair of gentleman's Thirties military bush trousers with double pleats front and back: "Way too flouncy for men these days, but fab for women."

You don't need to book a safari; the collection is versatile enough to extend beyond the African plains to islands in the sun and offices in urban cityscapes, too. The duo's white cotton/linen shirt works perfectly on a beach in the Seychelles, while the chinos are ideal for a smart dinner in the English countryside: "We're already making the jackets in moleskin for our British customers who want to wear them in the winter." Hickmanandbousfield.com



HICKMAN & BOUSFIELD LINEN-MIX BLOUSE, £105



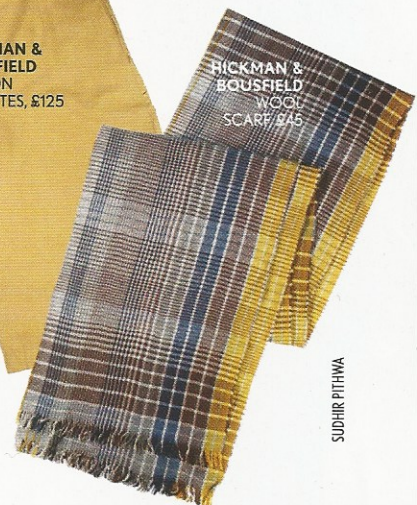
HICKMAN & BOUSFIELD COTTON-MIX WOOL TUNIC, £125



HICKMAN & BOUSFIELD FELT TRILBY, £225



HICKMAN & BOUSFIELD COTTON CULOTTES, £125



HICKMAN & BOUSFIELD WOOL SCARF, £45