

TASTEMAKER
jill platner

JEWELER AND SCULPTOR | New York City

If you ask Jill Platner what inspires her to create the jewelry and sculpture that have won her a cult following, her reply might seem contradictory. "Nature," she says, "and the city!" Step inside her studio, however, and it all makes sense. The sun-drenched New York City loft is filled with the shells, plants, rocks, and wood she's been collecting since her childhood in rural Massachusetts. But while the shapes of these specimens show up in her intricately crafted metal pieces, it's urban architecture and infrastructure that inform their construction. The cobblestones of her SoHo neighborhood, for instance, are reflected in the design of a recent cuff.

Her wardrobe, too, thrives on dichotomy. "Working with metal can get messy," she says, "so I spend most of my time in jeans and T-shirts." But when a gallery calls or a store wants to see her newest collection, she trades up to feminine yet minimalist pieces by designers such as Daryl K and Zero + Maria Cornejo. A vintage sweater or bag from her grandmother's wardrobe often finishes the look—along with, of course, a few of her own creations. "I keep it simple, so the jewelry makes the statement," Platner says. "I'm always testing out the new pieces to make sure they're just right before I send them off into the world." —BROOKE WILLIAMS



Jill Platner—seen here in her New York City studio—favors modern-yet-feminine silhouettes and strong hues that set off the bold jewelry she designs.

Lula top, double-stretch georgette, in Amethyst, \$450, zeromariacornejo.com. *Zipstop silk twill pants*, in Olive, \$400, daryl.com. *Rose de Mai necklace*, \$1,900; *Limited edition Freedom bracelet*, sterling silver; and *Ballad bracelet*, 19k gold; prices upon request, jillplatner.com.

PHOTOGRAPH BY Juliana Sohn



BOOK: COURTESY OF THE PUBLISHER; OPPOSITE: BICYCLE, JEANS, SHOE, SUNGLASSES: COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURERS; ALL OTHERS: BRYAN GARDNER; STYLING BY BETIM BALAMAN.

A FEW OF HER FAVORITES

1. Jill Platner finds interesting shapes in books of naturalist Ernst Haeckel's drawings. \$16.50, books amillion.com.
2. Graphic and over-size, Platner's *Encore Collar* is a thoroughly modern statement piece. \$4,500, jillplatner.com.
3. Like Platner herself, glittery polish, such as Deborah Lippman's *Happy Birthday*, is girly, but in a downtown way. \$18, deborahlippmann.com.
4. Lem Lem's cotton *Lila Split scarf* is a between-seasons favorite. \$150, lemlem.com.
5. Platner likes a dress that's feminine but not froufrou. \$565, tessgiberson.com.
6. She navigates NYC on a red vintage bicycle similar to Pashley's *Brittania five-speed*. \$1,295, adelineadeline.com.
7. Bright colors lend Rag & Bone/JEAN's *skinny denim* a fresh edge. \$176, saksfifthavenue.com.
8. Oliver People's *Graziella shades* add a little drama to simple ensembles. \$325, oliverpeoples.com.
9. Rainbow-hued Loomstate *blank V-neck organic tees* are her preferred wardrobe basics. \$40 each, loomstate.org.
10. Skinner and Stevens's *tote*, featuring a map of Puerto Escondido, Mexico, reminds Platner of the months she spent in that seaside town. \$140, skinnerandstevens.com.
11. Zero + Maria Cornejo's *Tara shoes* are comfortable yet evening appropriate. \$695, zeromariaornejo.com.