

COMMERCE

## Lanvin dismissed Alber Elbaz due to directional tensions

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*Illustration of Lanvin's Alber Elbaz*

By STAFF REPORTS

As the story develops it has come to light that Alber Elbaz, creative director of Lanvin, was terminated from his position at the house.

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On Oct. 28, WWD was told that Mr. Elbaz was stepping down as creative director after a 14-year tenure that saw the once ailing house turn around and become a force in the luxury fashion industry, with estimated revenues of about \$321 million. Sources close to Lanvin have said that issues between Mr. Elbaz and the 125-year old house's owner Shaw-Lan Wang were growing in recent months ([see story](#)).

### Parting ways

While initial reports claimed that Mr. Elbaz left under amicable circumstances, the designer's official statement says it was "the decision of the company's majority shareholder," meaning Ms. Wang.

As published by [Business of Fashion](#), Mr. Elbaz's statement reads as follows:

"At this time of my departure from Lanvin on the decision of the company's majority shareholder, I wish to express my gratitude and warm thoughts to all those who have worked with me passionately on the revival of Lanvin over the last 14 years; express my affection to all my wonderful colleagues in the Lanvin ateliers who accompanied me, and who enriched and supported my work. Together we have met the creative challenge presented by Lanvin and have restored its radiance and have returned it to its rightful position among France's absolutely luxury fashion houses.

"I also wish to express my profound and deepest gratitude to all of the clients and friends, to the French and international press and to all those business partners who collaborated with Lanvin, providing us with support since 2001.

"I wish the house of Lanvin the future it deserves among the best French luxury brands, and hope that it finds the business vision it needs to engage in the right way forward."

While Lanvin's growth has slowed, many believe that the house is in need of additional support to take the business to the next level. Purchase by a conglomerate would help garner this support but it is said by sources that Ms. Wang is asking too high of a price, which had likely been frustrating for Mr. Elbaz.

As a ten percent or greater stakeholder in Lanvin, which may have kept Mr. Elbaz there longer than he would have

otherwise, will result in a large payout.

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