

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Oscar de la Renta taps past employees as creative directors

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Oscar de la Renta fall/winter 2012 campaign

By STAFF REPORTS

U.S. fashion label Oscar de la Renta has named former designer team members Laura Kim and Fernando Garcia its new creative directors.

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The design duo will be filling the position left vacant after former creative director Peter Copping's exit from the company after less than two years. Having struck out on their own to form the successful cult label Monse, this appointment is something of a homecoming for two designers who worked under Mr. de la Renta.

Return to de la Renta

Ms. Kim worked with Mr. de la Renta for about a decade, eventually becoming design director in the company. During Mr. Garcia's five-year tenure at the house, he worked as a design assistant.

According to [The New York Times](#), Ms. Kim had hoped that the brand's eponymous founder would pick her as his successor, but the job instead went to Mr. Copping. While Mr. de la Renta intended to work alongside Mr. Copping for months before passing the baton, he passed before the new hire's first day.



Fernando Garcia and Laura Kim with Oscar de la Renta

When she found out she did not get the top design position, Ms. Kim announced her plans to leave the company once Mr. Copping arrived. Mr. Garcia left with her, and together the pair created their own label, Monse.

The brand became a choice for red carpet events and appearances for personalities including Sarah Jessica Parker, Lady Gaga and Kerry Washington. Monse's designers were also noticed by Carolina Herrera, who tapped the duo as consultants.

Oscar de la Renta CEO Alex Bolen announced Ms. Kim and Mr. Garcia's appointment on Sept. 2, confirming rumors within the industry ([see story](#)). The creative directors will show their first collection in February, and will split their time between Monse and Oscar de la Renta.

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