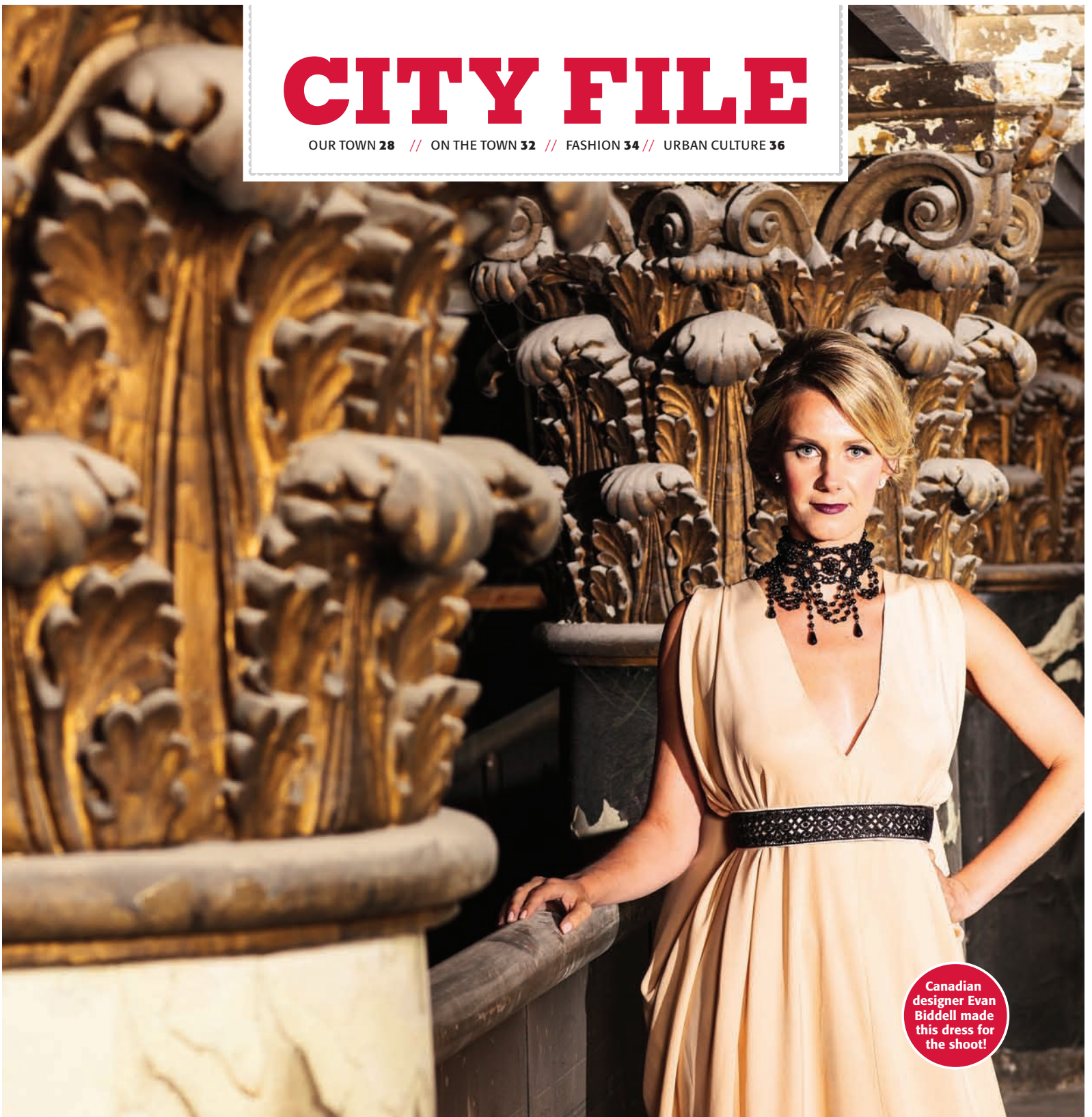


CITY FILE

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A Landmark Reborn

THE ROYAL CONNAUGHT HOTEL LOOKS SET TO RETURN TO ITS FORMER GLORY

Established in 1916 and closed since 2004, the former Royal Connaught Hotel is an iconic landmark steeped in history and rife with opulent design elements. Like most Hamiltonians, we've been watching, and waiting, for signs of progress on the much-anticipated redevelopment — as many as 700 condo units spread over two phases — and it looks like that patience is about to pay off with the behind-the-scenes renovations of the first phase of the project. Lisa Boyer, of LB Designs, is overseeing the finishing touches on the hotel's once-grand lobby, which will serve as a presentation centre/cafe and will be opening in early 2014. Here's hoping Boyer's deft design touch will help bring the much-loved Connaught back to life. "The Royal Connaught means so much to so many people, says Boyer. "There's so much heart in here and I'd love to see that energy come back and for the building to once again be a destination for people...it's going to have a great energy about it." Learn more at royalconnaught.com

PHOTO BY JEFF TESSIER

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