



The fashion force

Carolina Herrera

"I feel like I'm in heaven," says Carolina Herrera, reflecting on her spring 2005 runway show, which critics called "dazzling" and "a perfect blend of spirit and chic." But Herrera's head never stays in the clouds for long—this 63-year-old style pioneer is simply too busy running her \$400 million-plus global empire, which includes the Carolina Herrera New York collection; CH, a lower-priced lifestyle brand; 18 boutiques; six fragrances; bridalwear and a menswear line. This year, the Council of Fashion Designers of America honored Herrera, one of the few female designers to run her own line, as Womenswear Designer of the Year. "She's a major force," says Bridget Foley, executive editor of *W* magazine. "Twenty-three years into her career, she's more important than ever." And more driven. "When you have a bit of success, it's difficult to stop," says Herrera. "It's very seductive."

—DANA WOOD