



# Catalina Albertini

Senior Leather Goods Designer

📍 London, UK

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## Links

[🌐 Website](#)

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## Languages

Italian (Basic)

French (Fluent)

English (Fluent)

Spanish (Fluent)

## About

Experienced and qualified in Luxury Leather Goods Design, I have achieved numerous creative projects and gained valuable transferable skills in my career so far. Enthusiastic and strongly committed to delivering exquisite products to a high standard.

Currently working on the re-launch of an old Parisian luxury brand from the design & development side, setting new brand codes & DNA and creating its new handbag & SLG collection.

Previously led the after care solutions for contemporary luxury leather goods with a focus on craftsmanship, materials and colour.

Advocate of sustainable practices and passionate about the Fashion industry as a whole and how it shapes and responds to society, economics, politics, culture, consumer behaviour, art, technology.

### BRANDS WORKED WITH

Au Depart

Au Départ Paris

Calandra

Jazmín Chebar

Mariela Calvé Diseño de Autor

The Restory

## Experience



### ● SENIOR HANDBAG & SLG DESIGNER

Au Départ Paris | Aug 2022 - Dec 2023

- worked on the re-launch of the Parisian brand: setting new brand codes / DNA and designing and developing its first bags & SLG collections to the highest quality from conception to final prototype.
- creation of all detailed spec files in French and English for bags and hardware.
- sourced raw materials (top grade calf leathers and suede, coated canvas & other textiles for accessories).
- design & development of new collection of hardware / metal pieces.
- daily liaison with manufacturers from France, Spain and Italy.



### ● CO-HEAD OF ATELIER & INNOVATION (maternity cover)

The Restory | Jul 2021 - Apr 2022

- co-lead the Atelier in order to ensure top productivity, quality and technical development. Managing multiple projects to support the company's growth; doubled the Atelier size in 4 months by successfully onboarding 18 artisans.
- innovation management: actively explore new technologies, technical processes and colour recipes to elevate the current offering and develop solutions ahead of client's needs and in line with emerging product trends.
- creating standard commercial pricing and service packages per product / technique. This project increased sales and contributed to smoother operations across the Atelier, Marketing and Customer Services.
- evaluating historic data and client feedback in order to improve the quality of our techniques.
- report to top management weekly performance and blockers, and provide adequate solutions according to my experience and product knowledge in order to succeed in a fast paced environment of growth.



### ● RESTORATION SPECIALIST & MANAGER

The Restory | Feb 2019 - Apr 2022

- manager of a growing team of 14 artisans; responsible for their training, mentoring and professional development.
- restoration of items for VIP clients, premium goods and of the more complex techniques.
- trips to trade fairs in order to source materials, build supplier relationships with a focus on sustainability and identify key trends related to design, material, colour.
- strong understanding of luxury products, market and competitors.

- leading creative and technical innovation through R&D to develop new sustainable techniques and finishings.
- executing risk assessments of all coming projects to determine best creative & technical approach.
- writing Case Studies for the website in a commercial manner, providing technical content and Fashion context.
- participating in Marketing events to perform restorations and educate clients about after care and sustainability.
- strategic production management: planning, organisation and prioritisation in order to meet all deadlines, hit targets and ensure the highest level of craftsmanship and productivity.
- enriched the department's technical portfolio and services by 40%, and enhanced our in-house performance.
- excellent eye for colour and knowledge of leather tannery, materials, after care processes and manufacturing.



## ● RESTORATION ARTISAN

The Restory | Feb 2018 - Jan 2019

- restoration, re design and customisation of luxury handbags and shoes to the highest standard whilst respecting the brand's DNA, quality and leather / material finishing.
- restoration expertise include: colour mixing & matching (aniline, semi, pigmented), hand-painting, lettering, air brush, exotics, dyeing leather suede and silk, metallics, patent, glittering, flocking, embroidering, saddle stitching.
- writing detailed technical files to feed and update our Learning platform.
- initial assessment of items to provide customer services team with an accurate quotation.
- brands include: Chanel, Hermès, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Céline, Balenciaga, Louboutin, Ferragamo, etc.



## ● LEATHER GOODS & W RTW DESIGNER

Jazmín Chebar | Sep 2014 - Aug 2016

- designed for 3 main lines (Leather Goods, RTW and Knitwear) covering end to end design process from research and moodboards, design and CAD technical pack, fittings and development until final sampling.
- researched emerging trends related to shape, colour, material, construction techniques and product.
- delivered reports from online, catwalk shows, shopping trips and street-style. Ability to interpret macro trends and themes, conceptualise and develop then into new IT products.
- daily liaise with national and overseas suppliers (India, China, Argentina, Perú, Bolivia, Italy) to supervise the development of the collection. Experience working with a wide variety of fabrics and materials.
- excellent sense of style through feminine and unusual combinations. Contacted new suppliers and factories bringing in new materials and developments, enriching the collection with newness and innovation.
- actively participated in regular meetings with the Merchandising and Production teams to ensure product variability, commercial viability and accurate price ranges. A significant number of products I have designed have been featured in collection campaign and look book photo shoots, which generated new sale-points in New York and improved the brand's positioning and image.

## ● JUNIOR WOMENS RTW DESIGNER

Calandra | Oct 2013 - Sep 2014

- print designer (fabrics) and responsible to the development of textiles and intermediate processes (laser cutting, embroidering, printing, etc); the amount of print designs per collection was raised by 25%.
- developed moodboards reflecting the creative vision, updated collection & style boards on a daily basis.
- produced high quality CAD drawings with all technical information for all RTW and accessories collection.
- ensured meeting deadlines by taking on Production tasks on critical path dates to provide solid support to the team (production order technical specs, tracking production).



## ● ACCESSORIES DESIGN ASSISTANT

Mariela Calvé Diseño de Autor | Jun 2011 - Oct 2012

- successfully designed and developed the contemporary jewellery line, from concept to final product. This line attracted new customers and increased the sales. Awarded with A-DESIGN AWARD WINNING 2014.
- prepared all CAD drawings and technical specs for all bags collection and designed new commercial styles.
- researched and sourced leathers, fittings and materials.
- ensured production quality and meeting deadlines by effectively communicating with and visiting factories.
- represented the brand at Paralela Gift Fair @Sao Paulo.

## Education & Training

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- 2016 - 2018 ● **London College Of Fashion, University Of The Arts**  
MA FASHION ARTEFACT (ACCESSORIES), Accessories Design
- 2007 - 2012 ● **FADU, University of Buenos Aires**  
BA (HONS) FASHION DESIGN, Fashion Design with Knitwear
- 2004 - 2006 ● **LYCÉE FRANÇAIS JEAN-MERMOZ**  
BACCALAURÉAT SCIENTIFIQUE S.V.T.,