

# Orlando Sentinel

## Save big time - shop online for designers' high-fashion samples

**Question:** When I lived in New York, my friends and I were always going to the designers' sample sales. They were advertised on fliers handed out on the street. It was an amazing way to save money on real designer fashions. Is there anything like that in Orlando?

**Answer:** We have designers in Orlando, but most are young and struggling and do not have excess inventory to hold sample sales. For that, you need to be in a major fashion city such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles or Miami.

However, if you have a computer, you can shop sample sales online. The Gilt Groupe is a new e-tailer that has joined forces with the Council of Fashion Designers of America to sell designer samples at 70 percent off the retail price. Available brands include Badgley Mischka, Judith Ripka, Shoshanna and Zac Posen.

The site is [gilt.com](http://gilt.com), and was founded by Alexis Maybank, and original founder of eBay, and Alexandra Wilkis-Wilson, a veteran of Bulgari and Louis Vuitton.

By Jean Patteson

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