



Stefanie Japel



Kate Gilbert



Jennifer L. Appleby

in person

it's continental: three designers in this issue

STEFANIE JAPEL

HER PROJECT: Flutter Sleeve, page 18

Stefanie Japel, known online as Glampyre, is the author of the recent book *Fitted Knits* (F+W Publications, 2007), and she just contracted with her publisher for two more titles. Next up, *Glam Knits* will explore luxury and sparkly yarns in designs that will be ultra-femme and very hot.

Where do you live? Tell us about the knitting scene there. I live in Las Cruces, New Mexico. We are in way-way southern New Mexico, near both Texas and Mexico. The fiber arts scene in New Mexico is huge, and, although it's very warm here, we knit a lot. In Las Cruces, we have a knitting guild, a spinning guild, and a weaving guild. The people of Las Cruces are really open and friendly, and there's lots of community spirit. The local yarn store, Unravel, is the hub and meeting place for fiber people and is a second home for many of us.

SHE'S VIRTUAL: www.glampyre.com

KATE GILBERT

HER PROJECT: Picot Posey Mittens, page 22

Kate Gilbert lives in Montreal, Quebec, where she's landed after four years in France. Before France, she lived in New York City and worked as a graphic designer. The move to Europe led to trouble finding work in her field, so she started teaching English and found a lot of time to knit between classes. . . . and so a knitwear star was born!

What do you find most exciting about designing?

I love the math and obsessing over every little detail, but above all, I love working on things that I'm not quite sure will work out. It's so scary and fun to put a sweater together and try it on and see if it's what I had meant to make in the first place. I love the panic and the thrill. Knitting is much more exciting and dramatic than people think.

SHE'S VIRTUAL: www.kategilbert.com

JENNIFER L. APPLEBY

HER PROJECT: Two-Over-Two Vest, page 32

Jen Appleby lives in the wilds of British Columbia, far from the urban fashion scene, but her trend-friendly designs have been featured in many publications. Jen owns a yarn shop and pattern line, both called the Woollen Earth, in Vanderhoof, British Columbia.

When did you learn to knit and how?

My mom taught me to knit when I was little, but I didn't enjoy it. I always sat on the edge of my seat and gritted my teeth as I struggled. I preferred crocheting. I picked up knitting again in my last year of university and knit an accidentally gargantuan sweater for myself, which I subsequently gave to my (now) husband. . . . and it was too big for him! I later learned that my mistake was choosing a worsted-weight yarn to knit a DK pattern. . . . firsthand experience with the effects a difference in gauge can make!

SHE'S VIRTUAL: www.thewoolleneearth.com □