



My Fashion Fantasy... ZANDRA RHODES

The ultimate dream day in the life... as imagined by the fashion designer

t's been an incredible 50 years since the fuchsia-haired queen of British fashion, Dame Zandra Rhodes, first launched her eponymous label. Going on to become the UK's most renowned textile designer, she started out selling her designs on London's Carnaby Street in the 60s, dressing everyone from Princess Diana to Jackie O. A memorable moment was when rock band Queen popped around for a fitting session. "Freddie Mercury and Brian May came round to my place – it was only a funny little attic in Bayswater - and I told them they had to come in the evening because otherwise there'd be no changing rooms, she laughs. Next is an upcoming collaboration with Ikea and a retrospective of her work at the Fashion & Textile Museum, which she founded in 2003. "My great friend, [sculptor and jewellery maker] Andrew Logan, saw this building [in Bermondsey] and said, You've always wanted to do a museum why don't you buy it?'," she reveals. "The idea was to show what goes on with British fashion that people don't realise

On my dream morning I would wake up in Mexico at Rancho La Puerta health spa, and I'd do a five-mile hike in the wild landscape full of wonderful flowers – Indian paintbrushes, matilija poppies and golden daisies. I'd have a breakfast of muesli, yoghurt, coffee and fruit outside by the pool. Everything tastes fabulous in the early morning light. Then I'd put on a very jolly colourful outfit, which I'd wear with Andrew Logan brooches, and do a morning stretch followed by a circuit training class.

I'd be with my lovely friend Vickie Lavanty, who used to work for Vidal Sassoon, and who created all my magic fairytale multi-coloured wigs for my Go Red shows in San Diego. After that I'd put on a Three

Graces dress and fly to India. I did a collection with the brand of

lovely flowing day dresses, using my Mexican banana leaf print. In India I'd meet with my inspirational friend Rajeev Sethi, who keeps all the old Indian crafts

going and gives them a new way of thinking - he was in charge of all the Festivals of India across the world – and I'd be working on getting my inspiration together for my upcoming Ikea collection.

Next I'd go to Vellore, to the huge golden temple, and watch the cow puja in the exotic temple. They bring in a real cow, and paint it with turmeric and red dots, put a little gold crown on it and shower it with rose petals. It's led in by two priests in orange dhotis [robes] and it's a really lovely experience. For lunch, we'd dine at Vishalla in Ahmedabad. I'd have an exotic lentil soup served in a leaf bowl and then rasmalai, which is my favourite Indian dessert

I'd be wearing a Zandra Rhodes classic one-sided dress and I've got a fantastic black Valentino bag with silver studs that looks perfect with my outfit

For the afternoon I'd go to Wales and visit the incredible gardens at Powys Castle, with its fantastic rows of Elizabethan apple trees. They've trained all of the trees by weighing down their branches - rows of apple trees with bent branches. which not only look incredible but

it's skilled gardening, too. Then I'd wander through the quiet streets of Berriew, with its black and white Tudor-style buildings and topiaries. We'd walk to the Andrew Logan Museumof Sculpture, which is full of mannequins of him in all of his Alternative Miss World outfits, then quietly retire to the Lion Hotel that he and his partner Michael own. All the rooms have Andrew Logan mirrors and sculptures in them. It's gorgeous

Zandra Rhodes: Fifty Years of Fabulous opens at the Fashion and Textile Museum in London on 27 September. Visit ftmlondon.org