



## NAVIGLI, MILAN

# THIS WONDERFUL LITTLE PLACE

Handbag designer Julie Peelo always returns to this special neighbourhood in Milan

After graduating in fashion textiles from NCAD and working for a time for John Rocha, I moved to Italy in 2003 to get a job at a fashion house. I was introduced to the creative director of Marni who hired me as her assistant but I soon became involved in accessories and jewellery design.

At Marni's handbag factory, I was able to observe closely the pattern-makers at work, learn about the construction of bags and become familiar with the machinery used in handbag-making. This incredible education was the beginning of my interest in handbag construction and design. After Marni, I went to work for John Galliano in Paris, followed by some time at DKNY and Juicy Couture in New York.

I launched my own accessories label, Peelo, earlier this year. I feel like the ideas have been in my head since my time at Marni, and just needed to be expressed. I love very simple, modern accessories. I also wanted to make sure my bags were pieces people would want to wear every day, not just for special occasions. It's important to keep them at a sensible price point while using the very best leather and hardware.

While working in Paris and New York, I always returned to Milan, a city which is special place to me. Milan has an important leather industry, and I always worked with factories in the city, which meant I and would visit at least twice a

year, to coincide with the Lineapelle, the leather fair.

My favourite thing to do in Milan is visit Navigli, where I lived while at Marni. Navigli, the canal area of the city, has wonderful bars and restaurants. I love an *aperitivo* at one of the canalside bars, or a pizza with friends. Navigli is the perfect spot for people-watching during *la passeggiata*. At Navigli's fleamarket, you can find great little treasures and cool vintage clothes. I found a huge vintage movie poster there which now hangs in my studio in Malahide. It travelled with me from Milan to Paris to New York and back to Dublin.

When I return to Milan, I always pop into 10 Corso Como, the fashion store founded by Carla Sozzani. Corso Como is *the* place to see what's happening in the world of fashion and design. There is a beautiful café, a library full of books on art, design and fashion, and always an interesting exhibition. I can't wait to go back when restrictions lift. ■

[www.peelo.ie](http://www.peelo.ie)



Julie Peelo



Mini Zip Tote, €245

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