



# SUIT TO THRILL

DEF LEPPARD LEAD GUITARIST **PHIL COLLEN** MODELS THE NEWEST SUITS BY TIMELESS DESIGNERS DOLCE & GABBANA, ZEGNA, RALPH LAUREN, AND OTHERS.

BY RICHARD BIENSTOCK • PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAMELA LITTKY

**T**HOUGH HIS BAND'S sartorial tastes at one time ran toward Union Jack-embazoned tank tops and short shorts, Def Leppard's Phil Collen is, in fact, quite the fashionable man—these days, at least. “Back then, we wore whatever we'd pick up at [London flea market] Camden Lock or could borrow from our girlfriends,” the 52-year-old British guitarist says of his band's Eighties style. “Now, I wouldn't say I'm a label whore, but I've got so many clothes, I'm as bad as any woman!”

Collen states a preference for sleek, tailored fits, as well as designers who exhibit a rock and roll flair. “I have tons of Dolce & Gabbana in my closet,” he says, “and I also really like John Varvatos. After that, it's all the usual suspects—Gucci and Versace, and also Prada, though I think they're very much a European thing and a bit more conservative.”

He has a similarly discerning eye when it comes to guitars. From his black, three-pickup Ibanez Destroyer—the model he made famous in Def Leppard videos like “Photograph” and “Rock of Ages”—to his 1954 Gibson ES-175 to his signature Jackson PC1, Collen's instruments are defined as much by their tone as by their bold lines and striking designs.

In addition to these guitars, Collen brought to this shoot several other selections from his 150-plus collection, including the mid-Eighties “Black Cracklejack” Jackson he used to record “Pour Some Sugar on Me,” a refurbished 1977 Fender Telecaster, and a prototype of the PC Supreme, the next iteration of his signature model. “I wanted something that felt and sounded like my PC1 but had the look of a classic archtop,” he says of the new guitar, which is set to be unveiled next year.

Collen, who is currently working on an album with Man Raze, a side project that also features Sex Pistols drummer Paul Cook, reports that Def Leppard will reconvene to record a new album in 2011. “And then we'll tour for pretty much the rest of the year,” he says.

As for what he'll be wearing onstage for those shows, Collen, who has over the past several years transformed his body through a strict diet-and-exercise regimen, laughs. “Anyone who has seen me play recently knows I've been wearing less and less at gigs,” he admits. “So probably just a pair of pants.”

With his “Black Cracklejack” Jackson. Anthony wool flannel suit, dress shirt, and silk tie, **Ralph Lauren Black Label** (\$1,990, \$295, and \$135, [ralphlauren.com](http://ralphlauren.com)); black leather lace-up dress shoe, **Dolce & Gabbana** (\$625, [dolcegabbana.com](http://dolcegabbana.com))

With his Ibanez Destroyer. Black cotton suit with satin lapels, white dress shirt, black silk tie, and black leather lace-up dress shoe, **Dolce & Gabbana** (\$2,625, \$325, \$195, and \$625)

With his Gibson SG 200. London Milton Grey Suit, white button-down shirt, and grey plaid striped tie, **Burberry** (\$1,295, \$165, and \$150, [burberry.com](http://burberry.com)); Bowery Gator Boot, **John Varvatos** (\$698, [johnvarvatos.com](http://johnvarvatos.com))



With his Gibson ES-175. Black suit and black-and-white gingham dress shirt, **Z Zegna** (\$1,195 and \$180, [zzegna.com](http://zzegna.com)); black silk tie and black leather lace-up dress shoe, **Dolce & Gabbana** (\$195 and \$625)



With his Jackson Dinky "Bela." Black three-piece suit, **John Varvatos** (\$1,995); black silk tie, **Dolce & Gabbana** (\$195); grey striped dress shirt, Burberry; cap-toe dress shoe, **Florsheim by Duckie Brown** (\$295, [florsheimbyduckiebrown.com](http://florsheimbyduckiebrown.com)); Big Bang Earl Gray Steel, **Hublot** (\$9,900, available at [Westime, Los Angeles](http://Westime.com)); (below) with his Jackson PCI. Black cotton suit with satin lapels, white dress shirt, and black silk tie, **Dolce & Gabbana** (see credits on page 75)





With his Fender Telecaster. Espresso houndstooth one-button suit and black slim-fitting dress shirt, **John Varvatos** (\$1,895 and \$265); black silk tie, **Dolce & Gabbana** (\$195)

