

## Special Report

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### Japanese style goes pop

By Lucille Craft  
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#### Dogs and babies

So what's all the rage at the planet's ground zero for hip? Hang on to your Yves St. Laurent cell-phone straps, style victims -- one of the latest fashion statements is ... dogs and babies.

"At the beginning, dogs were like fashion accessories," said Mr. Bizel, but "now they are accessorizing the dogs with more accessories, like clothes and bags."

A reporter's gaze was directed to a Chihuahua resplendent in Burberry.

Another precious pooch was being transported, like some prince in a royal palanquin, via Louis Vuitton dog carrier.

Babies are also wearing a lot of chic colors nowadays, Mr. Bizel noted. "They are like small dogs."

Baby, in other words, is a fashion accessory.

#### Fashion in foment

Tokyo's funky fashion district radiates from a tree-lined avenue reminiscent of the Champs-Elysees called Omotesando, where Gap, Prada and their ilk dominate the glitzy high-end frontage.

Dyed-in-the-wool street fashionistas, however, pass up these titans of corporate fashion to hit the lower-rent, narrow back streets with their compact boutiques.

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Shoko Hasegawa, 17, text-messages a friend near the Jingubashi Bridge in the Harajuku district in Tokyo. (THE WASHINGTON TIMES)

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