

TAKING OFF

## Delhi Special

*Shelley Chhabra, 29, owner  
of a new bridal gown company.*

**CHANGING OUTFITS** Chhabra traded a cubicle and computer at a research firm for colored pencils and lush fabrics and now spends her days designing wedding dresses for Indian-American brides.

**GIRL POWER** "I was just craving the creativity and feminine touch," she says. **FAMILY STYLE** Before she got married in 2003, Chhabra traveled to New Delhi to pick out a wedding dress at her family's bridal business, which also creates formal wear for Bollywood stars. **PROJECT RUNWAY** Chhabra unveiled her many-hued collection last month at the local shrine to wedding fashion, Yolanda's Event Center in Waltham, where she is also working as a "bridal consultant" - that's industry-speak for saleswoman - to learn the business. **MONSOON ALERT** Chhabra, who plans to expand her bridal business nationwide, would also like to use her palette of colorful fabrics, beadwork, and intricate embroidery on less-formal frocks: "I already see people wearing tunics and different style shirts influenced from India."

- Lisa Kocian