

hearing about it all year. The \$15 billion project has already snagged **Coach** as a tenant, with gossip flying about interest from other upscale retail—including perhaps **Nordstrom**. Even Fashion Week might join the party, making this space fertile ground for 2012's best rumormongering.

8. Christian Louboutin men's

The king of red soles recently opened a shop dedicated entirely to men's footwear in Paris, and now he's planning to follow-up with a Meatpacking District location. The new store will sit around the corner from his women's boutique and possibly offer shoe-tattooing. Which means soon enough, MePa might be crawling with guys whose smoking slippers match their biceps.

7. Mega-Zara

When is the opening of yet another Zara big news? When it's the monster Zara flagship at 666 Fifth Avenue. The 32,000-square-foot space used to house the NBA store. It sits on the same block as Uniqlo's new flagship, making Fifth Avenue and 52nd Street into a fast-fashion powerhouse.

6. Nicholas Kirkwood

Isabella Blow's ex-roommate is bringing his abstract-but-sexy heels to the Meatpacking District. If we're lucky, the shop, at 807 Washington Street, will stock some of his collaborations with lines like Erdem and Rodarte.

5. Céline

It's been a while since Céline's skateboard-laden advertising first appeared at 71st and Madison. Construction workers told us they thought they'd be done by the holidays, but so far, no dice. This isn't the first time the French label has opened a space on Madison Avenue, by the way, but the new boutique will be a lot bigger than the one that closed.

4. Stella McCartney Soho

Stella is just one of several high-fashion labels to stake out a Soho spot for 2012. After years in the Meatpacking District, the boutique will relocate to Greene Street sometime this winter.

3. Balenciaga Soho

Balenciaga's W. 22nd Street space certainly seems healthy enough, but the lease is reportedly almost over, so the label will be shuffling down to Soho sometime in 2012. Their new location, 149 Mercer Street, used to house Korean restaurant Woo Lae Oak, and we hear they'll be paying \$1 million a year in rent.

2. YSL Soho

As the [brutal wait](#) outside this year's sale demonstrated, New Yorkers love themselves some Yves Saint Laurent. But right now Manhattan only has one location, on 57th Street and Fifth Avenue. The new Mercer Street location should rectify this tragic shortage, though we're not sure when. YSL's website [promises](#) that the site is opening soon, but from the outside it still looks fairly raw.

1. Tiffany Soho

Surely nothing can ever take the place of the uptown Tiffany. After all, not every Manhattan jewelry store can say it was name-checked in one of the greatest movies of all time. But the downtown location really might be a game-changer, if only because it's going to make the tourists go wild. The new space will occupy both 97 Greene Street and 106 Wooster Street when it opens in September 2012.

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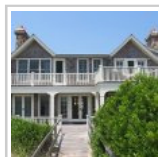
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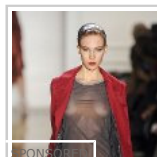
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