



GRAZIA EXCLUSIVE

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"THIS FEELS NAUGHTY TO ADMIT, BUT TAYLOR SWIFT IS MY FAVOURITE PERSON TO DRESS

for the red carpet," mused Reem Acra in an exclusive chat with *Grazia*. The designer is in Dubai on a two-day visit as one of the judges for the *Style.com/Arabia* – DDFC Fashion Prize, and she's madly in love with this city. "There's some kind of energy in Dubai; something that even New York doesn't have. I love it here," she declared. But favourite cities aside, right now, Reem is in seventh heaven after finding out that Taylor Swift is one of *her* biggest fans.

"Oh my goodness, I've dressed Taylor many, many times and we have such a great relationship. But when I heard that she told Prince William that the best dress she has ever worn in her entire life is a Reem Acra one, I was blown away!" she exclaimed. "It's been Taylor's year and every time I plan a collection and design, there's an element from her life or her music that I always look at. If you know my brand and know Taylor, you'll see the connection."

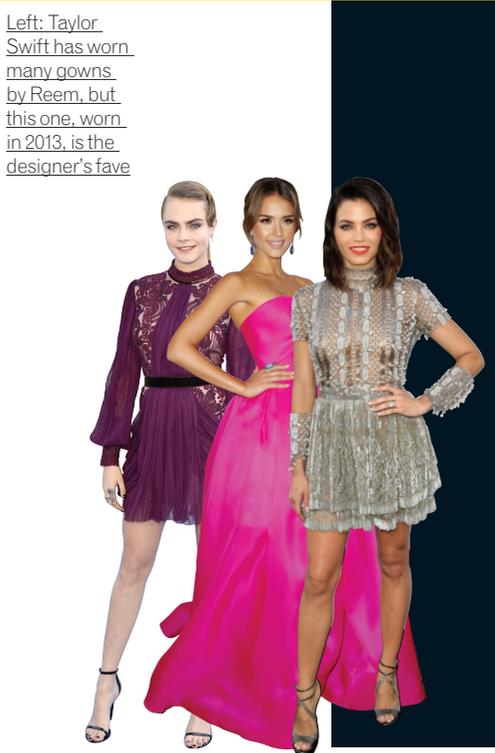
The *Wildest Dreams* singer voiced her

obsession with Reem's dresses in May this year as well. When Tay was fulfilling maid-of-honour duties for her best friend's wedding, she announced that both, the bride and Taylor, would be wearing dresses from Reem's bridal collection "because that's one of her (and my) favourite designers," Taylor wrote on Instagram. "Reem does the most amazing bridal designs, and Britany and I were looking through a magazine, and she pointed to this one gown, and I was like, 'I wonder if we could go to Reem's showroom.'"

This isn't the first time Reem has found a prestigious position in the glam world of Hollywood. The Lebanese designer's couture gowns have adorned many a celebrities such as Jessica Alba, Cara Delevingne, Olivia Wilde and Jennifer Lopez. And Reem explains her secret behind being America's red carpet darling. "I cater to a woman who is sexy. Lebanese designers understand the body; we understand what women really want. Lebanon is sexy – that's the word. Sexy! It's in the air, or something, we live it, and that's why you see it." **(b)**

REEM ACRA AND TAYLOR SWIFT'S LOVE STORY...

Left: Taylor Swift has worn many gowns by Reem, but this one, worn in 2013, is the designer's fave



RED CARPET QUEEN

Even though Reem has been dressing leading ladies of Hollywood for the red carpet, the Lebanese designer enjoys designing bridal gowns more. Her favourite celeb bride? "Jenna Dewan-Tatum. Designing for her was like a fairy tale, as she wanted a classic silhouette," she announced.

Words: Shitika Anand | Photos: Getty Images