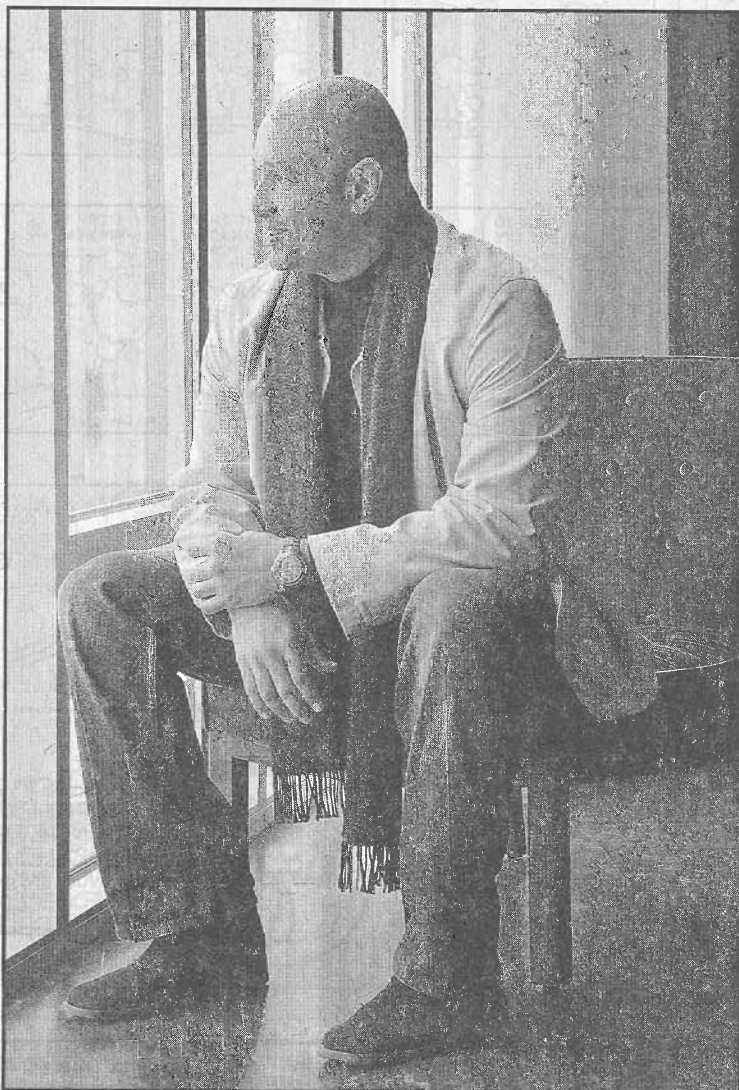


Afshin Ghazi, 37, moved with his family to Washington, D.C., on July 4, 1976. He attended Hanover College in Indiana, and the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he studied marketing management. In 1993, Ghazi rented a truck and moved to Charlotte, where he has resided longer than anywhere else. He is founder and president of the Ghazi Company, which had its first and biggest endeavors in real estate development, says Ghazi. Prominent Ghazi Company projects include ParkTowne Village, the Shops at Montford, and downtown's EpiCentre.



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EpiCentre developer Afshin Ghazi sports a jacket by Ermenegildo Zegna, scarf by Cole Haan, shirt by Nike, jeans by Diesel and shoes by Kenneth Cole Reaction.

Q. Are your parents stylish?

My mom is. Growing up people used to ask if I was her brother. I don't know if that was a compliment to her, or a knock on me.

Q. Did she train you?

Yes, but I was not a very good student. She has patience and I don't. She'll find the best deal on the best clothes, and I'll get the worst deal on the best clothes. But it might take her months to find the right shirt. It takes me five minutes.

Q. What's the first piece of designer clothing you remember buying?

I remember being on Rodco Drive. I was probably 16, and I wanted to buy something. All I could afford was a pair of socks. They were Ralph Lauren. I remember they were \$50.

Q. How does your sense of style help you do your work?

My style changes like a chameleon, based on the event. The one thing my mom did teach me, is there is a time and a place for everything. It doesn't matter if it is a car, or clothes, or construction material. I've always been a firm believer that you get the best, and it lasts a lifetime. If you get garbage, it's disposable. So if I buy something I go for what I perceive to be the best.

Q. Where in Charlotte do you shop?

I do most of my shopping when I'm out of town. That's because I don't have time to shop. When I go traveling I pack a minimum barebones suitcase and I come home with goodies.

Q. Do you buy designer labels?

I like (Ermenegildo) Zegna jackets. I love Gucci dress shoes. I like designer jeans, everything from Dolce & Gabbana to Diesel.

Q. How about suits?

I like custom. They fit the best. I have off-the-shelf suits too, like Hugo Boss, and Armani. I love ties. It's the only way to jazz anything up when you are a man.

Q. What do you require in a suit?

I hate for them to be baggy. Most of them are cuffed.

Q. Do you favor certain colors?

I like earth tones. I love beautiful blues. I like greens, and orange. I'm not so much a red guy.

Q. What shoes do you favor?

I love Cole Haan. I love flip-flops.

Q. Who gives you advice?

Everybody, but very rarely do I listen.

Q. Do you have any fashion pet peeves?

Too many holes in your body.

Q. Do you wear a watch?

At work, I wear my watch 50 percent of the time. In my free time, I never wear a watch.

Q. If you could go anywhere for a month, where would you go?

When I travel on long trips I like to take the first week and go somewhere I've never been before. The second week I'll use advice from the people I met during the first week. The third week I like to spend at one of my favorite spots from a previous trip.

Q. Do you have hobbies?

I love to ski. I love motorcycling, racing, hiking, skydiving, scuba diving. I've hiked most of the national parks west of the Mississippi.

Q. What was your best bargain?

My hotel rates. I'm a negotiator. I never make a hotel reservation. And I always get a room where I want.

Q. What can't you believe you once wore?

Knickers. Plaid.