

UNIQUELY YOU

eZine by ORENE

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Fall, 2006

LOOKING YOUR BEST

True elegance consists not in having a closet bursting with clothes, but rather in having a few well-chosen items in which one feels totally at ease.

--Coco Chanel

THE NEW MOOD FOR FALL

Sober, more covered up, darker colors, less glitz—this is the tone of what the designers are showing. “Black is the new black.” At the AICI meeting in June, we were treated to a movie presentation of the fall fashion trends by most of the prominent designers. Although current events are affecting the mood in fashion, there are so many great trends for fall that you are sure to find some that work for you. Just be selective in deciding which looks to incorporate into your wardrobe.

1. *Rich, Deep and Dark Colors.* In addition to black, which everyone will be wearing copious amounts of, deep burgundies, dark greens, rich, warm browns, heather and charcoal grays, and midnight and dark blues are the palate of the fall season. Everyone can wear something in these beautiful shades. Remember, *Sobriety* is the defining word and darker is the theme.
2. *Red.* In spite of the sober mood, red is a big color for fall. If you are not into red all over, as in a dress or knit top, keep it in mind for accessories, such as belts, scarves, shoes, and handbags.
3. *Opaque or Patterned Tights.* Tights are one of my favorite looks with skirts, particularly with some of the new shorter lengths. Black tights with ankle boots are a great look for fall and will update your wardrobe instantly.
4. *Skinny Pants and Leggings.* This look may not work for everyone. However, this can be fun for this season, even for pear-shapes if done right. Remember to wear at least a tunic length top (or longer) to provide the right proportion (and cover the bottom). A belt or bow at the waist will focus attention there, and not on problem areas. Also, pants that hit below the ankle will help your legs appear longer.

5. *Layering is In.* It is challenging to put together a layered look in an appropriate (and non-sloppy and age-appropriate) way. One fundamental for layering: your base layer should be a slim and elongated knit top. Also, rather than going overboard, it may work to add a scarf or necklaces as a last layer. By the way, I am going to a seminar in a few weeks on just this topic!
6. *Belts Continue to be Current!* The waist is highlighted this season. Try belting a sweater or dress. Every style and width of belt are in.
7. *Chains.* Chains are showing up on everything—gold link necklaces, cuffs or earrings, handbags, shoes, and as details on tailored clothing. Adding a chain will update your look.
8. *Boots are Big!* Every kind of boot is extremely popular. Ankle boots look great with tights and skirts, or with skinny pants and leggings. You can't beat tall boots with high heels that are knee-high or over the knee (with or without hardware or chains) to go with work suits and dresses. Flat boots, equestrian styles and motorcycle-inspired looks, go with almost everything and are very comfortable.
9. *Suits.* Beautifully tailored suits are back (i.e., *matching* jacket and pants or skirt)! Look for unusual details, such as full sleeves on the jacket or distinctive necklines. The jackets are fitted. Skirts can be in any shape or length. Menswear fabrics and plaids are showing up on everything, even shoes, and are terrific in suits.
10. *Capes.* This is a terrific look for fall in place of coats or jackets. If you are petite, go with a cropped style cape that hits above the wrist. Wearing a slimmer silhouette underneath a cape will create an illusion of added height.
11. *Dresses for Day.* These include shirt dresses (which define the waist with a self-belt), sweater dresses (especially with tights or leggings and boots), empire-waist dresses, jersey-printed dresses and shifts, which are all in current.
12. *Jumpers.* This is a great layering look if done in a sophisticated manner (no school girl look). Tights and boots work well with jumpers.

MY PERSONAL GROWTH

AICI CERTIFICATION

I have exciting news! I am now *certified* by the Association of Image Consultants International (AICI)! At the AICI annual conference in Las Vegas last May, a large group of us took the three hour long examination covering topics ranging from everything having to do with image and style to etiquette and ethics. I now have a fancy certificate (image is everything)!

At the conference, there were seminars on every topic imaginable having to do with image. I learned a great deal and I am incorporating some exciting new approaches in my work with clients.

SERVICES OF AN IMAGE CONSULTANT

ASSESSING YOUR PERSONAL STYLE.

How do you glean from fashion what is a part of your character and what works for you? How do you present yourself in an authentic way? Help in these areas is the essence of what Style Consultants do. One answer is: *If you don't like what you see reflected in the mirror, you don't have the right clothes on.*

WHAT IS A CLOSET AUDIT?

Everything in your closet should work for you! One of my services is a closet audit. It is fun and productive. You end up with a feeling of accomplishment and ready for the next season. We would go through as much or little of your closet as you desire—all completely confidential. At the end of the closet audit, you will have great combinations from head-to-toe, so you can confidently repeat the dynamic outfits we'll be coming up with. Some of our goals would be:

- Taking a fresh look at what you have, often putting together great new outfits from what is already in your closet;
- Weeding out pieces that no longer work or are in style—clearing out the clutter;
- Giving yourself permission to weed out past mistakes or gifts from well-meaning friends or relatives;
- Making a list of and prioritizing items you need in order to develop a core wardrobe that suits your personal style;
- Discovering what's missing in your closet that could have you utilizing more of what you already have, including items to go with “orphan” pieces (which we all have) ;
- Finding out what clothes need alterations, to see if clothes you've had awhile can be updated and/or provide you with better fit and proportion;
- Ascertaining what additional items you may want to shop for (including unique and fun items), if any; and
- Discovering if a particular part of your lifestyle is neglected, such as play, dating, special occasion or work, and strategize about filling that in.

OTHER SERVICES

- Closet work post-shopping trip—integrating new things with old things, putting outfits together
- Packing for trips
- Wedding clothes for bride, mother-of-the-bride, husband, etc.—planning and shopping
- Holiday clothes shopping

- Closet session to plan out holiday party outfits for the season
- Shopping for resort wear/destination vacations
- Exercise clothes shopping
- Date clothes shopping Creating a lingerie wardrobe/shopping
- New job/Interview shopping
- Business casual shopping
- Shopping for specific events
- “Theme” or costume party shopping
- Working with the needs of people going through health challenges(clothing, lingerie, head wraps and wigs)
- Creating “feel good” wardrobes for clients going through hard times
- Previewing trunk shows for clients
- Pre-season closet appointment for ongoing clients
- Eyeglass frame shopping
- Accessory shopping for accessory ensembles—the right earrings for a certain necklace, bracelets with earrings, etc.
- Shopping for bathing suits and bathing suit accessories (sandals, cover-ups, sunglasses, jewelry)
- Providing advise for your husband in purchasing gifts for you

Until next time!

Take care,

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