

WINNING IMPRESSIONS

Color By Design

Spring/Summer 2014...Mix and Match

Mix it up: smooth with texture, sheen with matte, dressy with casual. There's a new attitude to try new ways of wearing our clothes. A ruffle or softness here; a tailored edge there.

This Season: It's All About Ease

COLOR

Exuberant, confident colors as well as **soft pastels**. Mint green, icy blues, chiffon yellows, lilac, and peachy-pink-blush tints;

Tones of coral to rose. Cobalt blue, purple, and a wide range of true to deep reds.

Earth colors seen in the landscape: Burnished ocher, umber, and sunset-red.

The neutrals are: denim blue, brown, tans, black and white, and greys. **Metallics** are a part of the mix.

DESIGN

Stripes take the lead. All sizes and types: novel graphic arts, sports-inspired (rugby, race cars, nautical), and classic preppy. **Stay within your harmony's scale.**

Dots, grids, and color blocking.

Pretty florals... small and crisp to large and watercolor. Many are mixed with checks and dots. (This is a Spring Harmony look.) **The key to good design mixing is repeating the same colors in each pattern, and one of the patterns is smaller than the other.**

Nature themes from wild flowers to hot-house leaves.

Navaho, Pueblo pottery designs and artist Georgia O'Keefe-style influences. While not quite Western, there are **folkloric patterns done in a Bohemian kind of way. Pops of paisleys.**

FABRIC

Drapy, flowing, airy fabrics. Sheer with strategically placed lining for coverage.

Eyelet, usually a sweet look, is made sophisticated on tailored pieces.

Fabric with a glossy sheen or shine in Easter egg shades, and styled in new ways... like casual, tapered pants, tank tops, or added to shoulders and sleeves. **Reflective metallics.**

Pleats, pleats, pleats. Some are innovatively placed on the diagonal.

Ribbon yarns, lacy knits, and embroidered details.

Brocade is reinvented for Spring. To avoid the 1950's frump factor, choose pieces with youthful shapes like swingy skirts, a Bomber jacket, or shorts.

STYLE

Learn to transform trends into wearable classics and punch them up with color that will make your style a breath of fresh air.

Tops

The classic button-front, collared shirt, both long and short-sleeved. They should look slim, but not tight. They can reveal a playful side when made in florals or stripes. Color-blocking adds an edgy look.

Pair one with a pencil skirt, or pant, and fitted blazer for work. On weekends let the shirt go untucked with jeans, and finish with a statement necklace.

Mixed-print and floral T-shirts, sheer tops, ruffles or bell sleeves on blouses.

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Cropped tops. These skim the tops of high-waisted pants or skirts. The very short ones could be layered over a sheer, or silky, tank for a more modest, yet stylish look.

Buttery-soft leather shells.

Jackets

Always the blazer. Short ones are best with skirts or fuller pants. Some will be fitted with ease, some a boxy cut.

Short bolero or shrug-style cardigans are perfect toppers over sleeveless tops or dresses. This is a softer look than a blazer.

Pants

Wide-cropped pants (once called culottes). **Cuffed crops** stand out when the cuff has a pattern. Most are in Spring designs.

Cargo crops. Pair these sporty pants with feminine tops and soft cardigans for extra style. Wear flats or heels. The shorter you are the more lift you'll need. And **remember; wide legs can overwhelm petites.**

Tapered crops, and ankle pants. Classic trousers.

Flowing pants, called palazzo, are a nice change from the body-hugging clingers, and are cooler for Summer weather. When fitted through the hips and flared below, they can be very flattering.

Some **loose pants** may have elastic ankles, keeping the volume in check.

Dressy shorts. Loose, silky cuts, or neat and structured. For longer shorts you could add a blazer or cardigan.

Jumpsuits make getting dressed easy. They have tapered or flowing legs.

Skirts

We have **multi-option hemlines:** uneven, up and down, slit, or bias cut.

Flippy-flared or pleated. Pleats can be crisp or soft depending on the type of fabric. Pleats stitched down at the top will flatter your tummy. **Always show off the waist, or you could look swallowed up in pleats.** No untucked tops unless cropped just above the waistband.

Print skirts add interest. Be sure to pick up one of the print colors for the top.

We always need a solid skirt or one of our neutrals or N+ hues. Try wearing another shade of that color on your top, or a contrasting, complementary color, for a real statement.

For the young and trendy, there's the mini skirt.

Dresses

Again, there's a mix of styles going in different directions. **A dress in your closet is like gold.** Choose your most flattering look.

Architectural cuts in one bold color, or a softer color. Just large, simple statement earrings may be enough to enhance the dress.

Nipped in waists, bell or fluttery sleeves, a touch of ruffles. (Falls only do flat, wavy-type ruffles.)

Floral or leafy dresses in knee to tea lengths. Flats, or kitten to stiletto heels, will work with these lengths, depending on your height. **Petites need to show more ankle when wearing the tea length skirts or dresses.**

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ACCESSORIES Jewelry & More

The crisp shirtdress with unexpected details like sheer panels, contrasting collars, color blocking or pattern mixing. Watch out on the latter; it could be a confusing mess.

The sporty striped dress in mostly the Spring Harmony scale of small to medium, using a color with white. Some stylized, larger stripes in bold colors are for the Winter Harmony

Dresses with sailor stripes on cuffs, hems, and belting. (Coco Chanel popularized this look in 1917, and called it Marinière.)

Loose, less constricting silhouettes, and some made in stretchy fabrics for ease. Add a short blazer or cardigan to any of the above, and off you go.

Impressive collar-style necklaces... Some simple and dramatic, colorful, detailed, or floral in design.

Delicate to large, bold chain links.

Handcrafted jewelry and Tribal designs add an organic feel to your outfits.

Charm bracelets and wide cuffs... simple to ornate.

Wide ring bands.

Shoes

There's a **full spectrum of flats,** including flat sandals, casual to dressy, and that spells relief for feet lame from too-high heels. (If you have a high arch you won't do well with very flat shoes. A slight heel or wedge is better.)

Mesh, quilting, and colorful laces on pumps and other shoes are some of the newer looks in footwear.

Cut-out shapes in the body of the shoe. They lend a sporty touch to a relaxed summer outfit, and are not just for the gym.

You will see a **full color and style array of pumps.** Painterly, brush stroke effects, floral, plaid, striped, happy polka dots.

Mixed metallics transform shoes into glittery treasures for day or night.

Boudoir satins, lace, and a bit of froufrou... even pearls.

Short booties look great with everything... pants, shorts, and dresses.

Handbags

Large totes, satchels, structured, top-handle bags, hobo-styles in fabric or leather. **Clutches.** All in a bounty of colors, designs, metallics, and the newest eye-catching 3-D floral designs.

Hats

Baseball caps in colors and no logos, wide-brimmed **fedoras,** floppy **sun hats,** some with decorative bands or other details.

Fun Headbands or scarves tied as headbands.

REMEMBER: IF IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON YOU, IT'S NOT IN STYLE.

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How to Rate a Garment

Spring cleaning should apply to your closet and wardrobe, too. Weed out the wrong, worn, or excess.

A few well coordinated [pieces will see you through a number of situations. **Think Clutter free.**

Go through your closet, including jewelry, keeping only those things that pass these 3 questions:

- Do I love it?
- Is it flattering?
- Is this the image I want to project?

Next, use this fun and helpful exercise to help you decide whether a garment should still be taking up valuable space in your closet.

Using the point number indicated at the bottom:

- Give each quality a number on the line
- Add them up: **24** is the highest and a definite keeper, **18** is still pretty good, **12** you're off track and can do better.
- No matter how high the score, **if there is even a single "Avoid", remove it from your closet.** Donate it to charity or consignment. **That one "Avoid," will be what keeps you from wearing that garment, and it will continue to gather dust in your closet!**

Scorecard to Rate Your Garments

Affordability	___
Body Proportion	___
Color	___
Design	___
Expresses My Type	___
Fit and Fabric	___
Total	___

Excellent = 4 Good = 3 Fair = 2 Avoid = 1

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