

WINNING IMPRESSIONS

Color By Design

Spring / Summer 2016 ... Modern Romance

Fashion is following the world at large, bringing diverse and self-expressive choices. New eclectic looks deliver style and comfort mixed with femininity and sophistication.

This season: It's All About Pretty and Fun

COLOR

Hello, Red! Bright Poppy to Rusty Southwest Reds to the intense Winter Harmony **Magentas. Coral and Pastel-Soft Pinks.**

Aqua Blue-Greens, Tropical Blues and a stronger **Cobalt Blue.**

Your elegant range of greens toward **warm yellow-based greens** offer a friendly, happy mood.

The neutrals: **Navy, Soft Grey, Almond Beiges, Cream** and **White**, along with **Pale, Blush Tones.**

DESIGN

Lady Mary in Downton Abbey has influenced the **nostalgic floral prints** you'll be seeing, as well as other feminine elements.

Garden blooms large and small. Leafy abstracts. Peacock themes. **Cultural Abstracts.**

Stripes in pinstripes to wide, also in a mix of sizes on one garment. Look for your Harmony's scale and the best direction for your body. **No diagonal stripes for Springs or Summers.**

The usual tiny **gingham checks** are taken up to a 5/8"-1" scale, which are in the Spring Harmony range. The larger size check takes on a sporty, rather than cute look. **No gingham checks for Falls.**

Polka dots. A color background with white dots is the best choice. A white background with color dots should be worn as a neutral on a pant or jacket.

Adding a new design element are **cut-out shapes** on sleeves, within necklines, or on the sides of the midriff area. Many add an asymmetrical design which are good for Falls and Winters, as are the very sharp-shaped cut-outs.

FABRIC

Crisp cottons, silk-satins, silk-linens. Studs, sequins and **jewels** are added to glamorize some casual stylings, as well as dressy ones.

Fringe, appliques, lace, and fluttering **petal embellishments.**

Ruffles and **bows.** Some of these are in a dramatic large scale.

Lightweight suede worn with airy florals is a modern combination.

Mix soft textures with crisp fabrics for an interesting balance.

Metallics, iridescent and **sequined fabrics** give a shimmery effect for day or night.

STYLE

There's a 70's influence with Bohemian themes, flowers, and **frounces.**

Athletic (athleisure) stylings continue with the coming of the Summer Olympics.

No-fuss staples in **simple lines meet luxe fabrics** for luxurious simplicity. They will elevate whatever you put with them.

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Tops

T-shirts in knit, silk, or satin. **Shirtmaker blouses.** Soft, slightly slouchy **feminine blouses.** Pair with denim or flowing silk pants.

Off-shoulder tops. These are more modern peasant tops this time around. They are done up in crisp gingham checks, florals and solids accented with lace. **Longer earrings balance these skin-baring tops.**

Cut-outs on tops expose the shoulders.

Layered edges to the top's sleeves and hems. Pointed, angles and curvy scalloped hems. Several styles with **longer backs than fronts.**

Tie-front hems feature two front ends of the shirt to be tied in a knot at, or below, your waist.

Tunics, some long enough to become a dress, can be worn over slim ankle pants.

Long-line cardigans. These can replace a blazer for a more modern effect. There are sleeveless versions suitable for warm weather. **Short cardigans** are a good option with dresses, as are **shrugs,** when needed for a prettier, less sporty, more business-like look. Shrugs are a short-sleeve, short sweater with no buttons. The rounded bolero style works on Springs, Summers, and Winters. Falls will look better in the straight edge style. **All harmonies can wear the straight edge style.**

Jackets

Blazers. You have a choice of long with ease in the fit, or shorter, more fitted. Both are softly structured in the shoulders.

This season's **bomber/biker jacket** takes on several fresh looks using prints and made in blousy cuts with a banded waist for a more feminine style. **Bejeweled versions,** as well as **satin bombers,** and those made up of collage pieces for an artistic feeling.

Varsity letter-jackets with contrasting sleeves and athletic stripe trims.

The **classic denim jacket** in fresh colors as well as denim blue.

Pants

Tailored, wide-leg trousers, slim ankle pants, straight or bootcut pants. Cropped styles, some referred to as capris when slimmer and tailored.

Slim-cut jeans with a slight flare are a 70's repeat, but with a less exaggerated flare.

Culottes are part pant, part skirt. They are both practical and stylish.

Palazzos. Easy-going, yet glamorous, flared full pants.

Pajama pants in small menswear prints and neutral colors are a fun, casual pant that can be worn at home for leisure, or dressed up with a nicer slim knit top and flats, or platforms, to go out.

Jumpsuits. For those to whom these are new, they look great, but are functionally a disaster in the bathroom. It's a fight trying to keep them off the floor, and they'll leave you nearly bare head to toe.

Skirts

The pencil skirt in a choice of prints and solid colors. There are several skirt lengths... choose your best. There could be 2 or 3 that look good on you, depending on the skirt's shape.

Maxi skirts with one or two slits for ease. Pair these with an easy knit tee, dressier silk shirt, or wrap top.

Pleated skirts. Stitch-down pleats through the tummy area are the most flattering.

A-line skirts are enhancing on everyone.

The **peek-a-boo panel skirt** combines the miniskirt with a pencil skirt wrapped around the back and sides for a two-in-one combo. A modern, trendy style.

Dresses

A lot of **flared styles** and simple, sleeveless **sheath dresses. Wrap dresses.** The easy and wearable **shirtdress.** These, worn in sand-washed silk, are then made elegant. In cotton or linen, they will take on a casual feeling.

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Dresses (cont.)

Bohemian dresses in complicated prints accented with chunky jewelry. **Be careful here; they can get too costumey. Maxi dresses.**

Off-shoulder **peasant dresses.** This time around, they're in more sophisticated botanical prints. Some have Flamenco-fringed flounces.

The **slip-dress** for summer days or evenings. **Use a lightweight shrug, or cardigan, as your wrap when needed.**

ACCESSORIES Jewelry

Floral and geometric statement necklaces. Statement earrings and cuffs. When wearing a statement necklace, simplify the earrings.

Statement earrings don't need a necklace, but a cuff bracelet would be a good addition.

Shimmery beads and chains in multi-hues or monochromatic shades of mixed metals.

Delicate chains draped on the ankle, onto the foot, or onto the hands.

Whimsical sea life pins. Peacock pins. Butterfly and Floral pins.

For the Spring Harmony, the happy red bandana with the white paisley design is back, and can take the place of a statement necklace.

Black, brown, or colored ribbons tied onto your ponytail No bows, just a knot fastened on the top or below. **One to three narrow ribbons** used as a band above your forehead.

Shoes

Point-toe shoes make a return appearance. **Peep-toe pumps and flats. Lace-up flats** have a bit of a ballerina look.

Prints on shoes of all types, including sneakers.

The **block heel or stacked heel. Booties and sandals. Reflective metal heels.**

Platforms with stacked heels in a spectrum of colors. Wood Platforms.

Slip-on loafers and loafer slides.

Sandals in tawny tones with details like ankle ties, braiding, fringe, and tassels.

Gladiator sandals.

Handbags

The **saddle bag,** some with striped straps. **Slouchy-soft bags** with details like lacing, tassels and ties. The **box bag.**

The **flat satchel.** Sling it over your shoulder; tuck it under your arm.

Grab n' go totes to carry it all, in solid colors, prints, or bold graphics.

Pocket-size purses can add outfit-making polish when all you need is lipstick, comb, and your cell. Some have **gleaming chain straps.**

Take Charge of Your Clothes

- Make sure everything has a place. If not, find one, or get rid of something that is no longer worn, or you do not love.
- Every day: Hang up everything or put them away in a drawer.
- Purge throughout the year. This avoids finding time for one big job.
- Make it a routine to give away something that:
 - Doesn't make you feel or look your best.
 - Doesn't fit and never will.
 - Is completely out of style and can't be updated with alterations.

Remember: If it doesn't look good on you, it's not in style.