

UNIQUELY YOU

FOR MEN

eZine by ORENE

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LOOKING YOUR BEST

FALL/WINTER 2007 -- FASHION TRENDS FOR MEN

The overall trends for men are in the theme of "Return of the Gentleman." (This follows what is happening in women's style, with the return of grownup, sophisticated dressing.) Although there are certain trends which depend on the lifestyle of the man, overall it is a return to well-tailored, more formal and traditional clothes. More specifically, these trends are:

- *Oxford shoes*, with or without wingtips, are popular again. Loafers with a high vamp (they are high up on the top of the foot) as well as boots under slacks are fashionable.
- *Shirts* are beautifully tailored in white or color with stripes and other patterns.
- Traditional *cashmere sweaters* always look great, whether they are turtlenecks, V-necks or crew-necks. Cardigans are back in style and they are showing them for all ages.
- *Suits*. Three button or higher two button suit jackets are still the most fashionable (and not too edgy). However, the rule is whatever fits your body type. If you look better in a two button suit, then go with it. Also, double-breasted suits are showing up again. On the slightly edgier side (believe it or not), three piece suits are making a comeback! But of course they are coming back differently, with higher arm holes and jacket lengths. This look may still be too much on the horizon for the average man.
- A "*signature*" jacket that you can wear with everything, from jeans to dress slacks is the look this season. In addition to blazers and sport coats, this could be other styles of jacket or coats, such as of a car coat, a "walking jacket" (Joseph



Abboud), and other more casual styles of jackets. Leather and suede jackets are always in fashion and this season they showing a variety of lengths and styles – from longer coats to bomber (or aviator) length. They are also showing outdoorsman, rugged looking coats such as shearling. There is a “signature piece” for every body type and height!

- *Layering* your look with vests or sweaters over your shirt and then adding a jacket (and even a tie or a scarf) is very stylish.
- *Wristwatches* are very large and a bit bulky, with extra features such as a chronograph dial.
- *Neckties* are moving narrower, to about 3 ½ inches at their widest point. That is about ¼ inch less than the typical conservative tie of the past few years. Although some younger men who want to look extremely hip are wearing ties that are 1 – 2 inches wide, for most men at most offices, ties should go no narrower than 3 inches at the widest point. Here is another rule of thumb: a tie should be no more than ½ inch wider than a jacket’s lapel.

There are other important trends that don’t follow the “Return of the Gentleman” them. These are:

- Great-fitting, *designer jeans* are a staple. They have been around a while and will continue to be. What do you look for in a jean? Most importantly, look for jeans you feel comfortable in. In addition, look to see how flattering the rear is—certain styles of pocket can add fullness and others can make your rear look flatter. Another important consideration is what you are buying them for. Are you looking to wear it on a Saturday afternoon to a barbeque, wear them to dinner, go to a night club? In addition, what kind of “vibe” are you aiming for?
- They are showing *very fitted* shirts for younger men. This may pose a problem for any man with a bit of a tummy, but finding shirts that are somewhat fitted are a better choice to look your best and stay more youthful.
- A more adventurous man may want to look at the very unique-looking shoes and boots (that are not in the classic mold as discussed above) that are in the stores. These are very hip looking and make a statement.

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 Image Consultants do. The process of developing and assessing your unique personal style is the foundation for building a wardrobe that works for you.

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, father-of-the-bride, 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 advice for your wife or husband in purchasing gifts for you

Until next time!

Take care,

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