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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT: FALL FASHION



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FALL FASHION

Skin deep with Samantha Altea

Bring on fall fashion

Isn't it a little disconcerting that since about July, stores have been showing fall clothes? Forget about buying a pair of shorts, tanks tops, etc. because according to the world of fashion, summer's long gone. There's not a swimsuit in sight, nor a pair of flip-flops lurking in a hidden corner. But is it really time to think about your fall wardrobe, when it's still in the '70s most days? According to designers, chain stores and boutiques, it is and, frankly, though it pains me to say so, we are going to need colder weather clothes sooner rather than later. Say it isn't so.

But what do the fall 2004 collections have to offer? Is there a reason to look forward to wrapping up? What should we be wearing when the weather takes a turn?

I spoke with fashion designer and personal style consultant, Pamela Bouchard, to get the fashion 411 - what's hot when it's cold - what we need to know and what are we simply not going to be able to live without.

Bouchard remarks that fall, like the spring and summer, is harking back to years gone by to find its look. It's "retro styling," she says. Could it be time to raid Grandma's closet? Well, actually, yes, many of the fall collections take inspiration from the 30s, 40s and even 50s.

This year, it's about "pretty dressing," says Bouchard, "but with a retro feel and an unusual twist."

It's about mixing a pretty blouse (a key item) with a pair of men's wear inspired tweed pants - coupled with high heels and perhaps even a pretty silk scarf belt. Mix the masculine look with a very pretty feel.

Don't even think about dressing for success without making sure you have plenty of tweed in your closet.



Tweed is the IT word in fashion for fall. It can be seen in pants, like the ones just mentioned - Harris tweed, structured, wide-legged. But THE skirt to have this season is a longer length pencil skirt, tight to the body. A longer silhouette is what we're seeing, which harks back to the 40s and 50s. Wear this with a pretty blouse, but also with a great jacket, something like a

boucle fabric, classic Chanel look. Short, boxy-belted, or set in waistband jackets, a fitted silhouette, are hot items this year. Wear them with jeans, or with tweed pants or skirt. "Chanel has been a huge inspiration for about 2 years now and it continues with this fall's look, "feminine suiting," says Bouchard. And since we're talking about retro styling, don't forget the classic "twin-set." These are back, but with a novelty twist, says Bouchard. Perhaps with a fur trim, or some beading.

There's a mix of different textures and fabrics for fall. We'll see tweed, window pane check, lots of lace trims...anything feminine. It's Boudoir styling trimmed with lace, velvet bows, pretty detailing, says Bouchard, but with a masculine twist. Another trend

making a huge comeback is fashion's on-again, off-again love of skin. Leopard, snake prints, and fur will be seen this season.

In fall 2004, the color stories are purples and greens. For purple, go from deep purple to lavender; green, from yellow-green to blue-green, to apple and teal. Pinks and reds left over from the trend seen this summer take on heavier fabrics, and become slightly darker, plum-ish in tone. There's a HUGE chocolate brown and camel story, too, which looks amazing with, for example, a purple or green accent. Brown is the new neutral in collections this year, which is lucky - this was a trend only 2 or 3 years ago and so you should have some items left in your closet.

Accessories are still heavily gold and bronze. These warm tones work perfectly with the animal prints, camel tones, tweeds etc. Boots are embroidered and plenty of ribbons, bows, glitter and glam. "We're going to be able to sparkle by day and by night this year," says Bouchard. The round toe shoe is back, as well as wedged heels. High heeled round-toed pumps with the mannish trouser and pretty blouse is the look du jour. Scarves are big through the fall, too. These can be seen as pretty accents on bags, heads, waistbands, just like the summer; but with a different color story than seen in recent months.

Perhaps there is something to look forward to this fall. I can't wait to shop, how about you? (Fall make-up in the next Skin Deep)

If you need help editing, or pulling together your fall wardrobe, call Pamela Bouchard, Fashion Designer and Personal Style Consultant, 212-582-5440



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