

style



## 1 UNEARTH YOUR ECO-FASHIONISTA

You may suffer for fashion but don't let the rest of the world suffer with you. Here's how to become an eco-fashionista:

- Remake: Maki Squarepatch hand-makes dolls, purses, accessories, artworks and home decor items and injects new life into your beloved old belongings. For TODAY, the brand took an old knitted blouse and a velour sweater and remade both into a knitted clown plush (below, left). Maki Squarepatch is available online ([www.makisquarepatch.com](http://www.makisquarepatch.com)).
- Recycle: There's a more interesting way of recycling fashion than wearing hand-me-downs — just check out brands Schlauch and Freitag (above) at lifestyle store Actually. Schlauch uses the inner tubes found in bicycle tyres to create leather-like belts while Freitag produces durable messenger bags from industrial components such as old truck tarpaulins and used seatbelts and airbags. Actually is at 29A Seah Street.
- Remove: Say goodbye to harmful chemicals used in the cotton you wear. Britons Dean O'Sullivan and Issy Richardson started online organic clothing store Belle & Dean ([www.belleanddean.com](http://www.belleanddean.com)) to retail basic wear made from certified organic cotton (below, right). Besides saving the environment, organic cotton is said to feel softer and last longer.



# 7 fashionable things to do

Pearlyn Tham ([pearlyn@mediacorp.com.sg](mailto:pearlyn@mediacorp.com.sg)) suggests seven unique and trendy things you must try this year

## 2 GO WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

In a saturated product market, just how much more creative can you get?

Try handbags made from fresh flowers. Poppy Flora Studio gives brides — or anyone planning a garden party — a quirky alternative to traditional bouquets. The studio specially created a handbag for TODAY (left), using daisies on the exterior and a ribboned stem for the handle. Prices start from \$150. Poppy Flora Studio is at 76 Taman Warna.



And for something special for your ears, nail beauty chain Voxy hand-makes earrings (right, \$15 a pair and available from Voxy VivoCity and Voxy Causeway Point Metro) from fake nails, so divas can get their claws out in a new way.



## 3 SHOP AT A NIGHTSPOT

Thank goodness shopping at your favourite chill-out zone no longer means buying ugly pub paraphernalia. To give shopaholics an intoxicating rush, the enterprising set has moved away from the ubiquitous pushcarts, warehouse sales and mall bazaars — and turned to pubs, clubs and bars. Last year, three such events included the Flee! Market series at live-music venue Gashaus, the chi-chi FashBash (right) at Ink Club Bar at Raffles The Plaza and, most recently, Epilogue's Rapunsale at Loof.

Gashaus enjoyed a "full house with 27 stalls" during its Christmas-special market, while FashBash and Rapunsale saw about 2,000 and 1,000 shoppers, respectively. So, there may be more of such affairs this year, during which you can knock back a beer and fill up your shopping baskets, too.

Epilogue, which hosted about 12 edgy retailers such as Asylum and Venue, hopes to hold its next Rapunsale event in the next six months. Gashaus holds its flea markets on the first and third Saturdays each month and the FashBash organisers are shopping around for "a very chic new pub" for their next event before Chinese New Year.

As a FashBash spokesperson said: "Tipple makes any good thing better!"



## 4 VISIT A DESIGNER COLLECTIVE

More art gallery than boutique, L'Artichaut and CurioCity Gallery are run by owners-curators who take care of operations and marketing, so the designers can focus on what they do best — conceptualising and crafting.

CurioCity Gallery (left, bottom) promotes Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Nafa) graduates as well as local and foreign talents. Jay Chong, who manages the gallery, helps aspiring designers and fresh graduates hook up with sponsors, customers and retailers, pinpoint opportunities at overseas shows, and learn the art of product display, pricing and other issues that may confound first-time designers.

Currently, the works of fresh Nafa graduates Beng Hua, Cao Ling, Israel's Neta Lidor — whose handbags feature photographs collected by her grandmother — and Australia's Marc Harrison — who transforms macadamia husks into containers — are on display.

Just as selective is the quaint L'Artichaut. Entry to this terrace-house boutique is by appointment and founders Lynette Lim and Kazumi Hiruma organise a monthly open house. The duo attend events such as Paris Fashion Week to source for new designers and admitted they have turned away some brands who have asked to be represented. Said Lynette: "If it's just about stringing crystals together without a design theme and story, it's a no-go." What you can expect are theme-centric collections from 23 designers such as Tatty Devine, doll pendants in clothing by Paris label Servane Gaxotte (left, top) and whimsical Japan-made candles.

CurioCity Gallery is at Nafa School of Fashion Studies and L'Artichaut is at 37 Novena Terrace.



## 5 HIRE A PERSONAL SHOPPER

Celebrities and the uber-rich aren't the only privileged ones with personal shoppers-cum-stylists. For \$300 an hour, "power stylist" Karen Ng (right, top) will study your wardrobe, compile a list of what's missing and shop for you. The director of style consultancy Glitz works with retailers such as The Link and Club 21 and travels thrice a year to fashion capitals London, Milan and New York, where she can shop for the latest trends on your behalf.

For those who find gift-buying a chore, Karen will work around your budget, shop for anything from designer lingerie to Louis Vuitton bags, and have these wrapped and hand-delivered to your recipient. Glitz is at [www.glitzbykaren.com](http://www.glitzbykaren.com) and #13-05B Tower A, Ngee Ann City.

If that's not enough, boutique owner and personal shopper Anna Lee (right, bottom) of Snazzy goes one step further. She will close the doors of her cosy boutique for private shopping sessions and even carries a little book with her customers' data in it so she can "buy-on-order" when she travels to Hong Kong. If there is a certain style you have in mind, Anna will source for a few variations on her buying trips and fly these back for you at no extra cost. Snazzy is at the lobby of Strand Hotel.



## 6 SNIFF OUT YOUR OWN SCENT

If wearing a personalised fragrance makes sense to you, then go ahead and make scents. Senteurs de Provence holds "Create Your Own Scents" workshops (right) at \$86 per person for a two-hour session.

The workshops cater to groups of one to six, with light refreshments included. Managing director Elaine Seah aims to run the workshops twice a month this year. At each workshop, she guides participants in concocting four fragrances, advising them on the raw materials to use and on little-known techniques. Participants then get to concoct two scents on their own.

While such workshops are an ideal way to spend a quiet afternoon with friends, Elaine tries to group strangers together because "the point is to make the workshops very interactive". Senteurs de Provence is at #01-57B, Millenia Walk.



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## 7 BE A SPORT AT WORK

Sports brands this season are sexy rather than sweaty — think office-worthy spiffy jackets, dressy wrap blouses, sharp men's shirts and even glamorous trenchcoats.

We can't wait to cross swords in the boardroom in Lacoste's Spring-Summer 2007 collection (above, left), inspired by 1930s' French Riviera with touches from the 1980s. It will be available from March.

And while most of us don't call the recording studio or the stage our workplace, we like how hip-hop dame Missy Elliott has worked out the wearable Respect M.E. collection (above, right) with Adidas. Take off the cap, pull back the hair and wear this wrap shirt to score you that elusive business deal.