

Reporter: A Question Of Style



Celebrity stylist Karen Ng answers your fashion queries



Escada

Q I love to wear spaghetti-strapped tops and halter dresses for special occasions. But I'm in my early 50s and the law of gravity has set in. Plus I'm voluptuous and I don't have a well-defined waist. How would you suggest I wear these styles, but still maintain my curves? **Stephanie Kua**

A Your first consideration should be your bra, with great cup fit and strap support. A proper bra can transform your body shape, making you look a tad smaller and pulled together. Avoid strapless bras because they don't provide adequate support. When wearing spaghetti-strapped tops, make sure the straps are wide enough to hide bra straps. As for halter tops, opt for a cross-strapped bras. Next, bring focus to the centre of your top by choosing tops with details like ruffles, pleats, buttons or by wearing chokers or long necklaces. This will draw the eye inwards. Also, invest in a body shaper.

Q I am pregnant with my first baby and I am in such a dilemma. Never in my life have I felt so un-stylish. How can I still look fashionable throughout my pregnancy? Where and how can I get nice maternity clothes that look fab? **Mrs H**

A This season's voluminous, swing-style dresses are perfect for hiding that protruding tummy. Alldressedup in Paragon has a great selection of these styles that come in pretty and vibrant colours. They will make you look fresh and cheerful — the way you should feel during this special time. For a formal alternative, Lanvin offers elegant choices. Try also Topshop's maternity collection. Do experiment with accessories such as bags, brooches and scarves that can dress and polish up any ensemble. Don't forget: A chic hairstyle does wonders.

Q I have big hips. How can I dress for my body type? **Yvonne Lim**

Go for empire-waisted styles as they create a higher waist line that will visually lengthen your body and slim your hips. Also try wrap dresses as they accentuate the waist. For tops, opt for boat necklines, puffed or cap sleeves as these details will widen your shoulders and balance out your body. For bottoms, choose heavier fabrics like denim, heavy cottons or leather which will streamline your curves. Avoid shiny fabrics like satin, taffeta for bottoms and stay clear of rear pockets on trousers and skirts which add pounds, not flair.



Diana von Furstenberg

Kenzo

Q I'm 25-years-old and I love to wear dresses with flats. How can I look fashionable for work? **Isabel**

A If you want to power dress, invest in this season's hot item — blazers! Match them with your existing dresses and flats to update your look. Also try wearing a loose-fitting cardigan over your dresses and add a thin belt.

Belts can really make an outfit — patent ones will lend a more dressy effect.

Metallic accessories like necklaces and bracelets will complete your look, preparing you to take on the challenges work has to offer. •

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Dior



Bottega Veneta

CONGRATULATIONS!

Stephanie, you have won for yourself a Dancia™ mother-of-pearl and diamond necklace, worth \$338, from Soo Kee Jewellery.

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daniel_goh@mediacorp.com.sg with your question and put "A Question Of Style" in the subject heading. Please include your I/C and contact numbers. You get savvy advice and could win a great prize.

