

EXPERT ADVICE

So what does it take to look sharp in the corporate arena? Here are some tips from three professionals who have seen their fair share of corporate sartorial disasters.

It's all about fashion sense

Karen Ng

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With ten years of experience doling out image advice to tycoons in Hong Kong, Karen is currently based in Singapore catering to the super rich here.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK Having a fashion sense is crucial in finding your own style and does not come naturally. Put as much effort into building yours as you did your business empire by looking at fashion publications and deciding the type of image you feel most comfortable with.

ACCESSORIES ARE IMPORTANT You might not think anyone bothers, but people do take notice of the accessories you sport. Take as much effort in choosing the right shoes, watch, cufflinks, glasses and jewellery as you do your shirts and suits. So don't think you can get away with wearing ragged socks and scuffed shoes.

Bespoke is the way to go

Leslie Chia

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Creator of labels Harberdasher and The Clothes Publisher, Chia designs bespoke business and casual wear for his male customers at his PIMABS boutique.

ALWAYS GO CUSTOM Chia insists there is a stark difference between off-the-rack and bespoke. "What you get from a retail store cannot fit the person perfectly in terms of collar shapes, shoulder width, sleeve length, body length; areas that matter when it comes to looking sharp."

SLIM DOWN Sharp dressers will never be caught with bulging pockets. Ng advises CEOs who want to achieve the tall, sleek silhouette to go for slim-fit cuts and shed the clutter. "Thin down your wallet, use a name card holder or money clip instead."

MAINTAINING A BALANCE One of the biggest mistakes older CEOs make is to wear their pants too high. "It shortens their torso destroying your body's balance."

Keep it neat to stay sharp

Teo Ser Lee

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Trained and certified by The Protocol School of Washington, Teo has been conducting professional grooming seminars for managers for the past five years.

MIX WELL Knowing how to coordinate your shoes, ties, shirts are as important as getting the right fit.

CONTROL THE FUZZ Some younger CEOs like to keep facial hair. This is fine as long as they ensure that it's neatly trimmed. Nose and ear hairs are taboo.