

# Reporter: A Question Of Style



**Celebrity stylist Karen Ng answers your fashion queries.**

**Q** I'm desperate to find a great dress for an upcoming party, but I need something without a hefty designer price tag. Please help! — Sandy

**A** Dear Sandy, Ah, shopping for a party outfit — a situation that many women know they will inevitably face, yet never prepare for until the last minute. But fear not, there is still hope. If you're lucky enough to encounter an end-of-season sale at a multi-label boutique such as Club 21, Inhabit, Tribeca, Pois or Tyan, head right in: You're likely to nab a trendy piece at great value.

However, if there aren't any sales, then I suggest you go hunting for second-hand vintage designer pieces. Déjàvu Vintage at The Cathay and Millenia Walk is where you should start. Alternatively,

you can go to online sites that sell designer wear at affordable prices, such as Claire Incorruptible ([www.claireinc.com](http://www.claireinc.com)) or TheOutnet.com ([www.theoutnet.com](http://www.theoutnet.com)). Sizes available on these sites are fairly limited but if you can't find yours, you can always get a bigger size and have it altered.

Another good avenue is our local designers. There are a lot of young talents out there who offer great made-to-measure clothes at accessible prices. You can get feminine cocktail dresses from \$400 onwards from Belinda Ang ([www.belinda-ang.com](http://www.belinda-ang.com)), while Time Taken to Make a Dress at Niven Road offers



Cocktail dress, by Belinda Ang.



Ashley Olsen

Kristin Davis



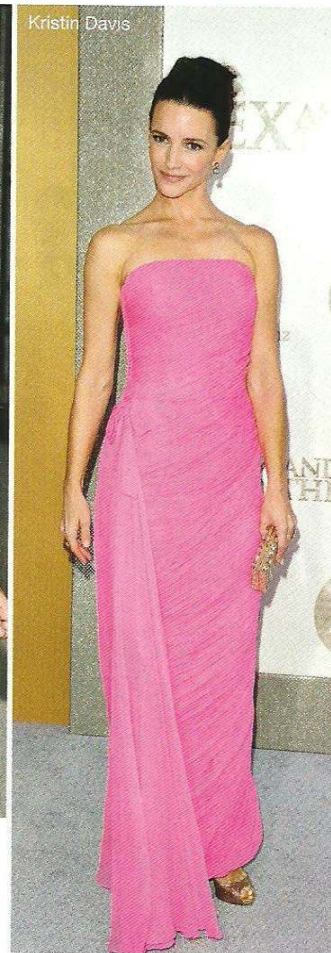
Uni-sleeved gown, by Ashley Isham.

Polka-dot long dress, by Koops.

more *avant-garde* looks from \$600 onwards. Likewise, Keith Png of Hide and Seek is always a good bet, as is Ashley Isham who never fails to disappoint. His diffusion line, A.I. by Ashley Isham, offers stunning cocktail dresses at affordable prices.

Here's my last piece of advice: If your lifestyle requires you to attend events and parties regularly, it'll be wise for you to stock up on cocktail dresses and evening gowns for last-minute invitations, especially during sale periods. Invest in them and you won't have to worry when the next invitation lands in your lap. :

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**CONGRATULATIONS Sandy, you have won yourself a Lovita® Reine diamond pendant worth \$399 from Soo Kee Jewellery.**