

Sequins, beads and crystals visit day wear and accessories



THE REAL DEAL
Sparkle has always been synonymous with evening wear, but then again, fashion codes are always changing.

All types of clothing pieces and accessories are gleaming this season, from sweater sets to evening bags. Familiar daytime clothing like cardigans, bangles, mules and belts are showing up adorned with sequins, beads and crystals.

While there's been much talk about minimalist style, a dash of shimmer may be just the "oomph" your basic black staples need.

Besides, shiny details surely will come in handy during the holiday party season.

The next time you find yourself in a panic, saying, "I have nothing to wear," think sequins.

While sequins may seem excessive for day wear, small doses of such embellishments serve to add luxury and playfulness to casual outfits, rather than drama and extravagance.

A wool sweater or cardigan adorned with beading is one of the easiest ways to give ordinary skirts and pants sophistication and playfulness. Jacobson's, for example, sells a simple beaded snowflake sweater in pale blue and pink for \$84.

And, if the season has caught you expecting, consider Pea In The Pod's silver-beaded, two-piece sweater set in black.

If adding sparkle in the form of accessories sounds more your speed, shop for an ornate hand bag or shiny piece of jewelry.

Necklaces you can layer and beaded chokers are suitable for most outfits and occasions, especially if you'd like something light-catching around the face.

While these pieces are available in major department stores and many small retail boutiques, I recommend stopping by Presence II in Birmingham. The store has a nice selection of these types of necklaces.

If you're looking for a piece of gleaming jewelry at a bargain price, visit Elizabeth Green Boutique on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. The store's jewel-colored, crystal bead bracelets sell for only \$10.

"(They're) perfect with blue jeans or a black ball gown," insists boutique owner Elizabeth Green. And, at \$10, you can indulge yourself. Wear one or two in the same shade; or mix colors and stack upwards of three around your wrist.

Beaded purses, a season must-have for party attire, can be purchased just about anywhere at any price. I spotted interesting and affordable versions at two local stores. Imagica in Pleasant Ridge has vintage-inspired, sequined purses for about \$62. At Bellissima in downtown Rochester, I found gray flannel purses with sequin details priced at about \$42.

While sequins and beads are suitable for both party girls and corporate divas, just remember it's all in the way you wear them; most of the time that means "a dash will do ya."

Cari Waldman is a free-lance writer and stylist who lives in West Bloomfield. Please send your style and shopping questions to Cari at OERealDeal.com



Casual shimmer: Jacobson's beaded snowflake sweater, \$84, suits daytime wear and comes in pale blue and pink.

Holiday dressing Cozy sweaters cover all the bases and more

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
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Holiday apparel shoppers beware: the line between dressy and casual wear looks fuzzy these days.

Fuzzy like a sweater.

Designers and retailers are pushing sweaters and long skirts, rather than fuzzy dresses, to wear to holiday balls as well as the plethora of semi-formal and informal occasions that come with the season.

Cardigans, funnel-neck and spaghetti-strap knit tops, even hooded sweatshirt-style sweaters, are being touted as the model party look for the holidays. Just add one of a variety of long skirt designs: ball gown, ball-style, parachute, to-the-floor and to-the-ankle.

While the notion of wearing a sweater and a long skirt to either a black-tie ball or casual dinner party might confuse some fashion followers, the trend has its advantages.

"It wardrobe stretches," said Somerset Collection Fashion Manager Amanda Turner. Not only can women wear the same skirt to both formal and informal affairs during the holiday season, but also the sweater they purchased for the look can be doctored with jeans on a Sunday afternoon or paired with pants and jacket in the workplace.

Bren Hillis, Select Personal Shopping manager for Hudson's at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi couldn't agree more. "You can wear sweater-sets with a pair of dress slacks or a ball skirt through the seasons, but it's very unusual that a woman would wear a spectacular evening gown more than once. This way, they're, what is the saying? ... Getting more bang for their buck."

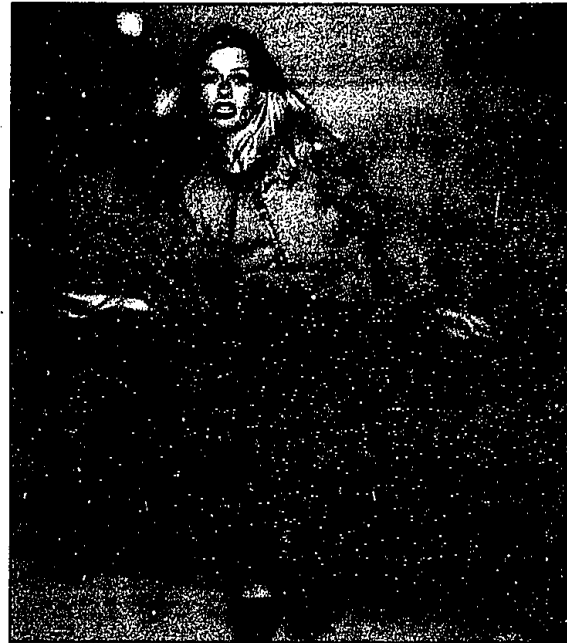
Another benefit of the trend, women can mix fabrics and colors in their evening wear. They also don't have to settle for less-than-flattering neck lines or styles on top.

Many designers, including Anne Klein and DKNY, offer up to three sweater and top styles to pair with their full-length skirts, said Hillis.

Sizing is less of a problem, too, said Andy Szkrzypalo, Parisian Room and Dresses selling manager at Laurel Park Place's Parisian store in Livonia. Not to mention, she said, "it seems to take away the emphasis on your bottom."

Sweater-sets and shrugs also give women the option of hiding their arms but don't constrict movement like jackets do. More revealing sweater styles, sleeveless funnel-neck and spaghetti-strap tops, are being shown with shawls and Pashmina wraps, which also hide the arms.

Fabric mix: Anne Klein combines a cashmere funnel-neck top, \$140, with a duchess satin long-tail skirt, \$365, both at Saks Fifth Avenue.



While ball gown and parachute skirts may require alterations, sweaters rarely do, said Hillis.

Most importantly, special occasion sweater and skirt separates are a thousand times more malleable than a formal, or even semi-formal, dress.

"You can make (the look) casual or dress it up as much as you want," said Hillis. Elegant jewelry, a formal evening bag and a pair of beaded slides cre-

Sweater party: Sweater-sets fall in between dressy and casual this season and suit both ball gown skirts and jeans. Hudson's Country Shop beaded cashmere cardigan in charcoal, \$235, is paired with a Country Shop black silk dupioni ball gown skirt, \$130.

ate a dressier look. A casual, beaded choker, plain shoes and simple evening bag render the look more informal.

"Two women can buy the same outfit, but it's how they accessorize that makes the look individual," said Hillis. "And, the look makes women feel like Cinderella. It's very feminine."

The skirt: Dana Buchman pairs a mohair sweater, \$228, with a silk taffeta ball skirt, \$478, both at Saks Fifth Avenue.



The shawl: Silk shantung bustier and ankle pants, \$260, gets wrapped up with a cashmere shawl, \$260, all by Kay Unger at Jacobson's.



R E T A I L R A P

PEDDLING SODA POP and athletic shoes goes hand in hand with being an NBA star, but kids furniture? Apparently, Detroit Pistons forward Grant Hill likes the idea. He's teamed up with a youth furniture maker to design boys and girls bedroom furniture. Locally, the furniture will be carried by Art Van Furniture stores. Accordingly, Hill will introduce and promote the line - and sign a few autographs - 5-7 p.m. Nov. 8 at the Art Van's Novi store. Call (248) 348-8922.



Grant Hill

CULTURE, ART AND a shopping spree can be had at southwest collectibles store Native West in downtown Plymouth. To celebrate the store's 10th anniversary in business, owners are giving one lucky shopper a \$500 shopping spree. Stop by the store, fill out an entry form and take a gander. The store stocks Indian jewelry, one-of-a-kind Hopi dolls, Navajo sand-paintings, southwest furniture and other arts and crafts. Entries, which do not require a purchase, will be accepted through Nov. 31. Native West is located at 883 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth, (734) 455-8838.

FORM DOESN'T FOLLOW function. That's the rule at Ligne Roset, a French manufacturer of contemporary furniture that recently set up shop in downtown Birmingham. The store will carry innovative pieces like the Extensia dining table, which has an expanding, silk-screened glass top, and the Maly bed, which features adjustable cushions and a pivoting side table. Ligne Roset is located at 275 South Old Woodward, (248) 723-2500.

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Saks Fifth Avenue. The Somerset Collection in Troy, hosts Christian Dior's beauty team and "From the Runway to Your Way," makeover appointments aimed at helping clients translate runway looks into everyday ones, through Nov. 13. Cosmetics & Fragrances, first floor. To make an appointment, call (248) 614-3363.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

PERNIE TALKS TABLE SETTINGS
Sarah, Duchess of York, discusses the lighter side of British tabletop style at Hudson's. The Somerset Collection in Troy, 1 p.m., China Department.

ZELDA TRUNK SHOW

Rox & Sherrin, 6536 Telegraph Road in Bloomfield Township, hosts a trunk show of spring clothing by Zelda through Nov. 13, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

OUTER WEAR SHOW

View the 1999 Special Order Collection of outer wear by Bill Blase at Saks Fifth Avenue, The Som-

erset Collection in Troy, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Coat Collections, third floor.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

LEATHER TRUNK SHOW
Solomon & Son, 6905 Orchard Lake Road in the Boardwalk shopping center in West Bloomfield, holds a trunk show of Andrew Marc leather and LeGar shearing coats for men and women with discounts on selected outer wear through Nov. 13, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

JUDITH JACK TRUNK SHOW

Jacobson's, Laurel Park Place in Livonia, showcases Judith Jack's jewelry collection, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Fashion Jewelry.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

CHILDREN'S COATS DRIVE

Donate a coat to needy children and meet WJLB radio personalities at Wonderland Mall in Livonia during the radio station's Coats For Kids Drive, 1-4 p.m., on-stage near Food Court.

BOB MACKIE FUR SHOWING

View designer Bob Mackie's newest collection of fur and shearing coats at Jacobson's in downtown Birmingham, noon-4 p.m., Fur Salon.

Retail, style and special store events are listed in this calendar. Please send information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 East Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax: (248) 644-1314. Information must be received by 6 p.m. Monday for publication the following Sunday.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

JEWELRY TRUNK SHOW
P.R. Haig Jewelers, 438 Main Street in downtown Rochester, hosts a fine jewelry trunk show with pieces discounted by 10 percent, noon-6 p.m. Call (248) 652-3600.

COLLECTIBLES SHOW

Wonderland Mall in Livonia hosts a card, coin, stamp and sports collectibles show, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., near Food Court.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

ESCADA TRUNK SHOW
View a division of Escada's Spring 2000 Collection at Nelman Marcus, The Somerset Collection in Troy, through Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Designer Sportswear, third floor.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

RUNWAY MAKEUP TIPS