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Forecast for Fall:

*casual
opulence*



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No matter which retro references designers choose to focus on this fall, the overall message is casual and dressy with luxurious fabrics, smooth finishes and loads of color. Words like “opulent” come to mind when describing fall’s styles. Even casual, everyday clothing is transformed into rich, put-together ensembles. Rather than a traditional take on fashion, many fall standbys from wool pants to sweaters are updated with exciting color combinations and new details for a sweeter effect.

Fashion’s continued fascination with color from the spring season shows no sign of winding down this fall. Fresh neutrals include charcoal, taupe, winter white, and beautiful shades of brown. Spring’s pink and green combos appear as dusty rose and moss green for fall. And punched up hues of purple and gold and silver (as in metallic) mix it up to add a gilt edge to both clothing and accessories. Tossing aside traditional rules for shoes and accessories, designers have created lively accompaniments for the season’s textured styles. Join us for a fresh look at fall fashion!

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READY TO WEAR

Fall's main message is showing various types of texture, from the sheerest of silks and crepes to fine knits, natty tweeds, and sleek gabardine and wool blends. Toss in buttery suedes, whispery cashmere and leathers both smooth and quilted, and you can feel the season's nod to the good life.

Fabric blocking creates multiple textures and weights for novelty looks. Tweeds, plaids and stripes are no longer just for the preppy fashionista, but transform casual attire into fashion with flair, such as the poncho still strong from the spring season.

Suits are huge for fall, yet this year it's not a 'matchy-matchy' take this time around. Try paring a fitted blazer or riding jacket with a denim or soft pleated skirt for an updated look.

Touching on the decades of the Thirties, Fifties and Eighties, fall silhouettes are full of variety. Pants slim down to midrise cigarette cuts and leggings, skirts range from short to longer lengths with pleats to drop-waisted styles, flounces, wrapped looks and pencil-slim cuts.



WHERE TO SHOP

Above: Black Wool and Silk Wrap Jacket and Charcoal Wool V-Petal Skirt by Jose Angel. Available at Haven Boutique, LA, 323-788-4092.

Above, right: Jade bracelet by Chan Luu available at Nordstom.com, Saks Fifth Avenue and Fragments.com

Right: Natural Chevron Handkerchief Poncho by Uriel Sanez available at Haven Boutique, LA, 323-788-4092. Dark Denim Seven jeans available at ShopBop.com

Left: Carnelian drop necklace available from JessicaElliot.com



SHOES

Shoes for fall support fashion's *riche* look with four main trends:

Purple ... lavender suede, purple patent leather, pink moccasins, aubergine low boots ... the look is totally Park Avenue abloom in lilac.

Western ... saddle up! Whether it's pink leather boots from traditional bootmaker Frye, or caramel hued stiletto ankle boots from Prada, western wear is in and at every price point. Even pumps and mules are showing touches of western.

Metallic ... Better keep up those pedicures this fall: Metallics still glitter with sandals, slides, and thongs gussied up with crystals and mesh for nights out. For a more casual look, try metallic sneakers.

Embellished ... from tweed to silk, baubles and bows, the simple pump goes glam this season. Prefer your pumps plain? Choose understated elegance with 40s-style high-vamp suede pumps. And if heels aren't your thing, boots of all heel heights, textures, and colors – even the season's darling, purple – are the perfect choice.



WHERE TO SHOP

Left: Citrine hoops at JacquelineJarrot.com

Right: Green corduroy crop jacket by Sanctuaryclothing.com.

Moss green corduroy pant with suede trim by Gaspjeans.com. Chain Belt with stones by JessicaElliot.com

Below: Multi-stone bracelet by JessicaElliot.com





ACCESSORIES

Accessories should always make an outfit pop and they perform perfectly this season. As with apparel, novelty is paramount. Designers feel no limitations in materials or combinations. Despite a revival of ladylike looks and 40s Hollywood chic *a la Cole Porter*, rules have fallen by the wayside, leaving color, texture, mixed materials and layers as key elements. Basically "Anything goes" this season!

JEWELRY

This fall, the chunky ethnic and natural looks that dominated past seasons transition and make way for more refined, faceted jewelry. There are three major themes for fall: retro looks like Lucite geometrics, romantic, and Victoria inspired. Clothing's colors, textures and multi-material trends cross over into jewelry as designers experiment with colored gold and Lucite. and combine bright semi-precious stones for offbeat creations. Necklaces grow longer for the Twenties flapper effect: pearls push forward, jet beads look new, and chains drip, dangle, and wrap in every way possible. Because of their layering appeal, multiple bangles or thin cuffs have more character than thick cuffs. Long linear earrings replace chandeliers.



WHERE TO SHOP

Above, right: Lori Lori crystal lariat available at Nordstrom.com

Above, left: Pink drop earrings available from JacquelineJarrot.com

Above: Multi-print shirt by ABSstyle.com. Cherry Cola casual pant by Sanctuaryclothing.com

Right: "Director Case" handbag with rhinestone buckle available in camel, pink, or black suede at Surlygirlstudios.com



HANDBAGS

Handbags highlight fall's color and textured fabric trends. Hot palettes are greens, purples and pinks, and materials include high-polished patent or embossed leathers, suede, houndstooth and tweed. Clutch, drawstring, front flap, hobo and barrel styles are embellished with buckles, chains, grommets, jewels, animal skins and plenty of pockets. Novelty cell-phone holders add more options to the traditional styles. Also making a comeback for fall are matching handbags with shoes or belts in combined textures like smooth leather with wool or corduroy.

Whatever styles you choose to wear this season, aim for texture, individuality ... and loads of color!



WHERE TO SHOP

Top, Left: Lori Lori beaded bracelet at Nordstrom.com

Top Right: Chan Luu beaded necklace available at Fragments.com

Right: Blue wool trousers and light gray contour sweater available at Haven Boutique, LA, 323-788-4092.



Stylist Leigh-Anna Kaye is a licensed beauty consultant, public speaker and fashion expert with a column in *The Weekly Press*, one of Los Angeles' largest weekly newspapers covering the latest trends and fashions. She is also a contributing author for *Shine* magazine, *The Christian Times* and dozens of other publications.

Leigh-Ann also provides commercial and voice-over campaigns for such clients as Coca Cola, Toyota, Macy's, Pizza Hut, Kroger's, and Wal-Mart. Prior to moving to LA, Leigh-Anna hosted a daily radio program in Nashville and released a couple of music singles on national radio. She graduated from the University of Tennessee and Belmont University with a degree in music and communications.

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