

smooth transition winter to spring



1. Moss Green corduroy pant with suede trim by gaspjeans.com. Chain belt with stones by JessicaElliot.com. 2. Black Wool and Silk Wrap Jacket and Charcoal Wool V-Petal skirt by Jose Angel. Available at Haven Boutique (323) 788-4092. 3. Natural Chevron Handkerchief Poncho by Uriel Sanez at Haven Boutique (323) 788-4092. Dark Denim Seven jeans available at ShopBop.com. 4. Multi-print shirt by ABSstyle.com. Cherry Cola casual pant by Sanctuaryclothing.com. 5. All shoes are handmade by Salpy in Studio City, CA (818) 767-2045.

No matter which retro references designers choose to focus on this season, the overall message is casual and dressy with luxurious fabrics, smooth finishes and loads of color. Words like 'opulent' come to mind when describing styles for 2005. Even casual, everyday clothing is transformed into rich, put-together ensembles. Rather than a traditional take on fashion, many 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 fall season shows no sign of winding down. Fresh neutrals include charcoal, taupe, winter white, and beautiful shades of brown. New styles for Spring are pink and green combos which are carried over from the rich hues of Fall.

There's an overall sense of richness in fashion with a strong back-to-nature influence. 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 fall season.

Suits are huge for this year but it's not a 'matchy-matchy' take this time around. Try pairing a fitted blazer with a denim skirt 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 and drop-waisted styles, wrapped looks and pencil-slim cuts.

Accessories should always make an outfit pop and they do a great job of it during this transition season. As with apparel, novelty is paramount. Designers feel no limitations in materials or combinations. Despite a revival of ladylike looks, rules have fallen by the wayside, leaving color, texture, mixed materials and layers as key elements. Basically 'anything-goes' this season.

HANDBAGS

Handbags highlight Spring'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 are matching handbags with shoes or belts in combined textures like smooth leather with wool or corduroy.

Whatever style and texture you choose to wear this season, be sure to put your best foot forward. Be different, be in, and fill your wardrobe with color!—Leigh-Anna Kaye ✨