

ON ONI



Leather jackets can replace blazers in the office.



Classic cardigan, funky belt by Erin Nadler



Equestrian-style boots, Zara



Cashmere cardigan, H&M

FALL FASHION TRENDS

JENNIFER WILSON
TORONTO STAR

Students aren't the only ones who greet autumn with a fresh wardrobe — many a lady greets September by pulling out last year's fall and winter staples, only to find out they're not quite up to snuff when it comes to the latest trends.

The cool weather and the urge to layer also beg for a closet update to get us through the shorter days and impending sub-zero temperatures.

Luckily, this fall is all about luxurious looking — and warm — layers and textures, says fashion consultant Erin Nadler, president of Better Styled (www.betterstyled.com), citing the long cardigans, furry vests and fitted blazers spotted on runways for this season.

"Lots of women have been bored with flat blouses and knits," says Nadler, and spinning a modern take on the men's three piece suit — for example, a blouse, vest and cardigan combo — is "a nice way to change up the look."

It's great for women who are often cold in the office, says Nadler. "On the runways, everyone was layering everything. It's nice to have the crispness of a blouse or tee layered."

The pieces being layered are also oozing personality in embellishments and details, notes Nadler, from cardigans printed with chain details or boasting frilly ruffles to knit blazers with leather trim or suede elbow patches and pockets.

Without further ado, here are some easy ways to bring your wardrobe in line with this season's trends — and keep you warm, to boot.

SHE'S A LADY...

Ladylike pieces are hot for 2011. Whether you credit *Mad Men's* feminine silhouettes or Kate Middleton's fondness for frocks and nude tights, dresses, stockings, lace and feminine frills are all filling closets this fall.

When it comes to wardrobe staples, dresses and skirts are appearing en masse.

Feminine and fun, dresses also strike a practical note, says Nadler, because they're "throw them on and go. Women find an ease to dressing." One piece, paired with a great accessory and a blazer or cardigan, and you're ready for the day — no mixing and matching required.

As a result, says Nadler, "dresses are here to stay."

After years of being bored with pantsuits, the proliferation of dresses with matching jackets are a welcome update for women who work in business environments, she adds. "You're still covered, and look sophisticated and corporate."

Of course, short hemlines and cold winters just beg for covering, and luckily, leggings and tights have experienced a huge surge in popularity. Whether they're a nude hose a la Kate Middleton to make you look like you have legs for miles, a cheerful bright for a pop of colour, or a chunky knit, options abound to dress up those gams. The daring can pair them with skinny socks and Mary Janes or knee-high varieties for extra texture and warmth.

With this ladylike return to swirling skirts, and a mix of available hemlines from the demure knee-length and sweeping maxi to the leg elongating mini, other core clothing elements are also flirting with the idea of a revival with a proliferation of

Begging for a closet update

Clever pieces to take your wardrobe into fall



STYLED BY ERIN NADLER

Erin Nadler fashioned this look with fur and a statement necklace with chains with varying lengths

Lace is also a star of the season, appearing as an overlay on dresses, a peek-a-boo window on a statement tee, an embellished spin on a sweater's sleeve or even a great pair of stockings. "It's not your mother's lace," says Nadler.

roll vibe this season with a love for leather, zippers and chains.

Leather is showing up in the seasonal staple of the jacket — even better if it's a worn-in biker or bomber style — as well as in embellishments, for example, in trim, necklets and elbow patches

Like leather, suede details are also popping up on the expected boots, jackets and purses as well as in contrasting colours in pockets, trim and other details on dresses, skirts and cardigans.

Animal print was also on the proud for fall runways

add an edge without being overwhelmed.

It's a "nice way to add a current piece to a black suit without looking over the top."

Another animal-inspired trend of the season, continuing with the texture trend as well, is fur — mostly faux or vintage — with funky takes such as collars on sweaters and furry vests.

DRESS IT UP

Of course, no season's trends are complete without killer accessories, so this fall, reach for bold belts and statement necklaces.

The perfect fall necklace features a variety of lengths and a mix of metals, such as brushed gold and silver, or even leather. Look for pieces that are textured and chunky, suggests Nadler, to quickly dress up boring basics.

Belts in all shapes and sizes add sizzle — and versatility — to your wardrobe, whether sprucing up a simple sheath or providing shape to a trendy long cardigan. Nadler suggests trying either a thick or waist-cinching model. Look for big details, natural textures, bright colours and animal prints.

EMBRACE COLOUR

The trees aren't the only ones who should be bringing out the brights this autumn. Top hues for fall include jewel-toned reds, purples, and cobalt blues mixed with neutrals of winter white, grey and black. And, like last year, camel remains a star, going well beyond the classic — and divine — pea coat.

Seek the hues in cardigans, belts, tights and this season's fun trend of coloured jeans and cords.

TOP PICKS FOR FALL

These eight pieces will help update your current pieces for a fashionable fall:

- **Leather jacket:** Look for a short, bomber or biker style that can be worn in and out of the office.
- **Boots:** Hunt for a to-the-knee model that can be paired with a skirt or dress. Look for riding style or a bit of a pump, suggests Nadler, noting that black is a good classic staple.
- **A peek of lace:** Look for a lace tank top that can be layered under a boyfriend jacket with jeans or a lace overlay dress that would look great with a leather jacket for a feminine wardrobe twist.
- **Coloured jeans:** Choose a wearable wide-leg or trouser-style jean or cord in a funky colour. The more moderate fashionistas can hunt out a neutral grey that can be mixed and matched with existing pieces.
- **Chain necklace:** Choose a bold, over-the-top style that can "add funky details to staples to make it more current." Look for a longer style, and don't fear mixing lengths of chains or adding other textures such as beads, suede or leather.
- **Cosy cardigans:** Functional and fashionable, a comfy cardigan will keep you warm and add a luxe layer to any wardrobe. Belt a longer cardigan for a new silhouette, or seek a style with a ruffle embellishment to embrace the season's feminine trend.

• **Something camel:** "Lots of people shy away from it, but lots of people can wear it," says Nadler, who encourages the shy to try on a darker version to ease into the hue.

• **Tights:** Longer-looking legs, flattering shaping, added warmth and