

His and hers festive looks

• With social calendars filling up at this time of the year, many of us are combing through our closets for snazzy ensembles • Two leading image and fashion consultants help you reimagine pieces you have at home



WOMEN

Erin Nadler, president of Better Styled, a full-service fashion consultation firm for women, said shoppers should invest in core, classic, well-fitting pieces for all occasions.

"What makes it classic is the fabric and cut, what works for your body type, image and look you're trying to achieve," she said

With many after-hours functions taking place right after work, some partygoers may be seeking a quick transition to spice up their office attire for

the big night.
"Easy little things they can bring along with them in the morning is really what I'm seeing the corporate woman do," said Nadler.

It's simple to dress up a black pantsuit by adding a little coloured belt and either wearing a shoe in the same hue or a black lowcut, high-heeled bootie, Nadler said.

If you want to switch out your pants for a skirt, consider pairing it with a satin top or ruffled blouse, Nadler suggested.

Adding accessories like

a pair of dropped chandelier earrings can take a look to evening, as can a sparkling sequinned envelope purse or donning a simple hair accessory, she noted.

Nadler said it's important to keep in mind for office functions that you're still around people you work with so your corporate image should remain.

For a laid-back yet still stylish look, Nadler said dark denim jeans are an essential that can easily be dressed up.

She suggested then taking a basic white blouseand adding a shawl or wrap, some of which feature embellishments like grommet details.

"If it's a plain pashmina you already own, you can always just take it and add a great brooch or a fabulous necklace with it instead," she said.

To complete the look, another footwear item Nadler said is huge for the season is the riding boot, which can be paired with jeans either tucked in or left untucked.

"For somebody who's going to a more casual party, it's great," Nadler said.







MEN

Leah Morrigan, principal of Leah Morrigan Image Consulting for Men, said when working with clients, she typically builds what she describes as a "module" that comprises of core essentials.

For winter, some of those key pieces would include a suit, a couple of pairs of trousers, some denim, a few shirts and a sweater that matches.

Such classic pieces can be integral to the holiday ensemble. And for those who are a bit more daring in their fashion choices, Morrigan said the festive season is all about drama.

"You can go a bit fancy. You can wear sheers, silks, things with a nice drape, a nice sheen. Even satins, anything like that will be wonderful," she said.

For what she described as a dramatic look, she pulled together a sleek black Italian suit paired with a red patterned shirt with a black collar.

Morrigan said that previously, a man's tie served as the palette for playing with colour. Now she sees a similar role for the cuff.

Much like women's jewelry, Morrigan said cufflinks are guys' accessories, with variations to choose from including sparkly rhinestones, platinum and even cartoons.

"There are all sorts and types that can help add a little extra to their look."

For a more casual yet fashionable outfit for a house party, Morrigan said dark wash denim is a versatile pant. She paired it with a velvet coat, buttondown shirt and a belt.

If you'd prefer to lose the jacket, wear the Frenchcuffed shirt with cufflinks, or perhaps pair the shirt with a V-neck sweater or cardigan.

"Again, you'll be able to pull out a little bit and show the cuff to show out the cufflink."

To transition an office look to evening, Morrigan suggested ditching the tie and adding a pocket square to a jacket, which can help dress up the look.

Scarves can be a stylish accessory.

The consultant encourages men to be realistic both about their build and shape when selecting items and to go for items they can wear with ease, so that they are true to themselves.

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