

Sailing Away

Summer's Breezy Fashions Come Adorned With Details, Dominated by Flashes of White

By Angela Ambrosini-Haliski

Washing up along the shoreline this summer are inspired fashions from the exotic Far East, India, China and Africa. Men and women will find a culture rush of rich colors styled with glamour and class.

The dominant palette is bright white with a mixture of mismatched layers of

— long skirts and tanks embellished with beading, crystals, etc.; and accessories that are vintage and full of character, from coin sandals [to] arm cuffs and unique necklaces," says Kimmie Smith, the fashion designer of Kitten by Sikara Designs Group, a resort-inspired collection of activewear embellished with Swarovski crystals and beading.

"This style is further highlighted with natural makeup with an emphasis on shimmer and a dewy appearance — it is truly stylish without extreme effort," she says.

As for men's fashions, contrasting colors layered with more white and color is the most important statement this season. Fabrics, such as linen, cotton and denim, dominate casual wear for men.

The retro theme is the main focus with a worn and faded look for a more relaxed, yet subtle style. Jerseys and jackets are all-important details this summer. Pinstripes, Hawaiian and surfing motifs finish the season, keeping with the look of stress-free and comfortable beach fashions.

"Menswear is also adopting colors this season. Men's ties are making a colorful comeback with many patterns and designs," says Summer Sheree Jeter, an up-and-coming



Jane Mingay/AP

Shabby Chic: Flaunted on London's runways

color such as taffy-toned pastels, bold and neutral earth colors all simulating the relaxed and fresh approach for the season.

"When I saw the predictions for summer 2005 and the 'White — on its own worn head-to-toe' slogan, I felt like screaming. But one scream won't change the fact that this summer it's 'the white, the whole white and nothing but the white,'" says Kim Bolsover, an image and color consultant.

"The color predictions for the autumn/winter 2005 season will cause utter despondency for [those who] have cool, rose skin tones, and this trend of warmer colors being in vogue will continue into 2006," Bolsover says.

Like clothes seen this season, fashion for women this summer keeps within the modern romantic look with an old-world charm. Style includes trimmed camisoles, cropped jeans, full, imaginative prints and the return of those much forgotten Bermuda shorts. Lush fabrics set the mood with lingerie-inspired satins, detailed laces, twill and denim, reflecting a soft, feminine appeal that appeared on this season's runway.

"Expect a mirage of orange, yellow and shades of green; extreme comfort



Alberto Pellacchia/AP

Biagiotti: Bohemian look in Italian fashion

fashion designer. "As a designer, I am glad that menswear is utilizing colors this season."

It's going to be a colorful summer by the pool this year, with all fashions tailored to embrace individualistic styles, allowing a more flirty and sensual side to come out from hiding beneath all that winter baggage. ■

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