

Party-perfect pants

From classic Jodhpurs to the modern versions of cropped culottes and baggy knickerbockers — pants get a re-touch to pep up the party scene

SHAGUFTA KALIM

THE ASIAN AGE

For your next cocktail hour session skip the gowns and LBDs in exchange for some fancy pants. As this season celebrates the big swing in favour of the androgynous style, here's your turn to flaunt some haute pants.

Take a sneak peek at Chanel's Fall-Couture '14 collection to understand how designer Karl Lagerfeld paired stiffly tailored jackets inspired by Victorian frock coats with tight knickerbockers (baggy-kneed trousers) for women. The RTW line of Elie Saab said a similar story with jumpsuits and wide leg pants ruling the runway.

"When the talk is about playing the party circuit differently, shorts instantly come to my mind," says designer Namrata Joshipura. "They can pronounce feminine sophistication without getting too dressy. The idea finds a perfect definition in the form of silk sequinned shorts. You also have the choice of keeping your shorts subtle and let the corset be the highlight in pattern prints, textured base line, 3D patterns and shimmers in sun rays pattern," adds the Delhi-based designer.

Designer Sakshee Pradhan too is on a shimmer and shine promotion. "Shorts call you to let your hair down and have a good time. Working your style according to your mood can translate well in sequinned shorts and metallic tops with braided straps as sleeves — they offer the perfect eye catching party piece," she tips.

Global fashion icon Victoria Beckham is also busy promoting another striking version of party pants called the culottes. Not only is she wearing them to all places, these pants are also showing up prominently in her collections. "Introduce a sleeveless top or a semi constructed jacket with a soft peplum to the culottes. Your easy going style can win admirers while wearing culottes and a crisp shirt with sparkles of crystal," suggests designer Nidhi Ahuja's.

Remember Angelina Jolie walking the red carpet in a Yves Saint Lauren tuxedo for 2014 BAFTA? That's exactly what translates as thinking out of the box. "The important thing is to create a balance, you simply cannot afford the boardroom look when you are stepping in a glam zone. If you want to make a



(Top L to R) Comfort and class comes easy in these stylish trousers designed by Siddhartha Tytler and Raghavendra Rathore; (below) A model displays a pair of printed pants by Pankaj and Nidhi

statement with a pair of trousers, rely on fabrics like brocade, jacquard or go for silk or satin slim leg pants with embroidered motifs. Don't miss out on metallic textured cropped pants — they are in vogue. As an added advice, I'd say keep a check on shimmers. While wearing separates, if your bottom wear is well embellished, go subtle with the top. Or say the goodness of baroque prints or leather skinny trousers will give you a smooth walk to your pants," Nidhi elaborates.

As a thumb rule, one should keep things balanced and focus on highlighting one part of your outfit like the shirt or blazer and keep the rest simple, advises designer Jenny Rei.

"At the moment, Jodhpur pants crafted in nice crepe, silk or printed fabric are doing very well. I'm not a big fan of combining pants with the usual blouse for the evening unless they're gorgeous. For instance, off-shoulder shirts and tops with thin straps showcasing either a low back or a hint of cleavage so that you can see some skin in moderation," concludes designer Jenny.

style sheet

Maang-tikkas make a chic statement



SUMIT SAWHNEY

A simple outfit can be turned into a head-tuner with bold accessories, and lately *maang-tikkas* have become a focal point to create such stunning looks.

A lot of celebrities like Vidya Balan, Sonam Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Alicia Keys, Lady Gaga and Paris Hilton are flaunting these *tikkas* in different shapes and sizes to make a style statement.

Tikkas with vintage Mughal inspired *kundan*/*polki* style remains to be the most

sought. *Maang-tikkas* with connectors (*mattha patti*) that are made of pearls, gold beads are also a rage now.

The antique old tribal styles are also much in vogue and they add a rugged character to the look. In this segment, some of the popular designs are the oversized *tikkas* and *chand tikkas* (shaped as crescent moon) that come in intricate silver designs.

Versions of *jhoomers* and traditional *borla* have also made a huge comeback in the contemporary bridal segment. They can be paired with South Indian temple inspired chains, keeping in mind the main necklace, earrings and the outfit.

The writer is a designer and director at Apala

trend alert

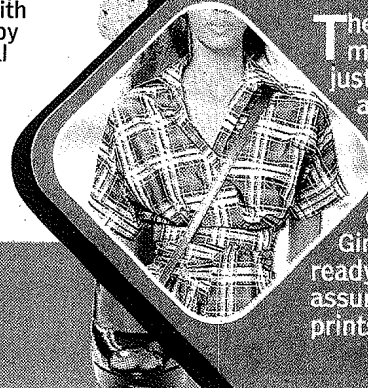
GINGHAM STYLE

The New Year will see a lot more Gingham — and not just as dresses or tops but also in form of accessories like bags and shoes. As Michael Kors and Diane Von Furstenberg showcased various versions of Gingham shirt dresses in the ready-to-wear line for 2015, be assured to see more of these prints in the coming year.

If you want to make a statement with a pair of trousers go for silk or satin slim leg pants with embroidered motifs — NIDHI AHUJA

77

A model displays cropped top paired with loose pants by Payal Singhal



Fusing the past

Designers and fashionistas are being inspired by trends that used to be and creating retrofashion, writes avra biswas



"OLD is gold" seems to be the mantra for today's Indian fashion industry. Indeed, the past has been inspiring the fashion world for quite some time as designers go for "fusion fashion", which connotes revamping earlier generations' statements with a pinch of Western fashions. Ranging from O-glasses to cotton "half-pants", what were seen in the past are resurfacing in a new avatar but with a difference; this time around there is a tinge of eccentricity added.

"Revamp is certainly set to stay here for a long time," said Pankaj Ahuja of the well-known designer duo Pankaj and Nidhi on the sidelines of their show at the Blender's Fashion Tour 2014. "Nidhi and I had once created a beautiful piece using *kantha*. It is now one of our signature designs. It was appreciated by one and all," he added.

Said fashion designer Jayita Singh Raajput, "It's my instinct to design clothes that have some similarity in features to clothes of olden times. They might not be the perfect design to serve my purpose but that very element of imperfection provides more vibrancy to my designs than an out-and-out modern idea would have done."

The modern day fashion conscious lot are also not afraid to try something out-of-the-box in order get noticed. This characteristic is a major driving force behind setting fashion trends amongst middle-class Indian men

and women. As fashion photographer Sagnik Jaiswal said, "The mohawk is an eye-catching hairstyle which made its appearance abroad about 50 years ago. It has been made a comeback. Today, it is one of the most trending hairstyles among young boys in India who follow fashion trends in contemporary scene."

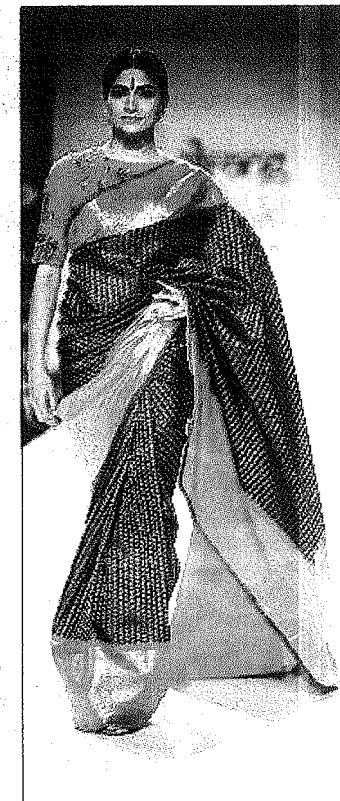
Look at some star football players in the international arena today and you will see how the mohawk is being embraced.

The young in the country have always looked up to their idols in Hollywood and the music fraternity for inspiration. Hence, it goes without saying that fashion trends too are emulated and "trendified" in India. Casual or funk wear, which originally came into the limelight in the mid-70s in USA, is now

almost the order of the day for Gen-Y. They prove to be the perfect apparel for "cool" selfies, right? Miniskirts and *anarkalis*, which pretty much ruled then Bollywood, were lost amidst the host of fashion experimentations conducted by designers during the past two decades. But they are back to sizzle and regain their old status. "If you ask me about my favourite retro wear, then the *anarkali*

definitely has to be there at the top," said model Rikthee Basu.

Among traditional Indian wear, the *lehenga-choli* has the most notable history. Since the early 20th century, Indian women (mostly from the southern and western parts) have been wearing this attire at home. The modern version of it, however, is used more for exotic appeal



rather than a casual house-wear. This "epitome of womanhood" in India has undergone refurbishing over the years and every style

does justice to the aforementioned title as it represents the socio-cultural renovations to a large extent, as well. Raajput, who has often used this attire in the shoots conducted by her fashion brand, reiterated, "Look at Deepika Padukone in the *lehenga-choli* in *Ramleela*! Wasn't she smashing?"

As we have moved from the era of Test cricket to the one-day entertainers and even crisp T20 matches, it needs no repetition of the fact that we have to pack more work into a definite span of time than before. Hence in the era of busy schedules and always "running short on time", the apparel has to keep up too. Supply always responds to demand, as any economist will remind you; modern designers too have learnt to adapt to the common man's needs and have successfully remoulded certain traditional wear.

As Raajput pointed out, the modern *sahwar* no longer comes with a separate *dupatta*. It remains attached to the main piece of cloth. Ready-to-wear *dhottis* are often seen these days at wedding ceremonies, which spares the bridegroom the trouble of tying some really difficult knots. Jumpsuits are back in fashion after a long lull for the very reason that they are the most easy-to-wear piece of cloth one can think of.

In this context, Trambak Roy, hero of Bengali film *Premtila*, said, "Time has had the biggest impact on the modern man's fashion trends. If I'm about to visit four different places during the course of a single day then I

would prefer to wear something that suits the each of those places rather than changing each time."

Asked whether there were any chances of conducting a retro fashion show in the future, Raajput responded, "Definitely. Retro is the new sexy. I don't have any doubts over the success of a fashion show when the theme is retro. I would definitely love to conduct one."

To which Jaiswal added, "Most of the catalogue shoots that I work at these days have 60 per cent of retro content. Eccentric retro is definitely the hottest Page 3 trend right now."

Designer Namrata Joshupuria agreed that revamp of older wear was in. "Although, I don't usually experiment on traditional Indian clothes and my genre is more contemporary, yet I would say that revamp of olden wears is definitely a concept that's ruling the industry at present," she said. "In the near future I am planning to focus on Indian traditionals and create something innovative out of them."

trans world features



Times of India, Delhi

Sunday 4th January 2015, Page: 25

Width: 20.06 cms, Height: 16.17 cms, a4r, Ref: pmin.2015-01-04.43.192

NOYONITA LODH ALL SET TO REPRESENT INDIA

AT MISS UNIVERSE



Noyonita is seen here in a richly embroidered fuchsia purple *lehenga* in silk satin by Ritu Kumar. The ideal colour for a wedding ceremony, the ensemble is teamed with a rich fuchsia net *dupatta* with deep borders and a figure-hugging *choli* in purple. Watch Noyonita's introduction from the pageant, using *Alive*. For more info, log on to www.missdiva.com



Designer: Ritu Kumar; Photographer: Vik Douliant; Hair artist: Lolo Chapoy; Makeup artist: Sital Patel; Location courtesy: Rameja Exotica; Stylist: Rocky Star; Jewellery: Minerali; Shoes: Steve Madden

Garima.Sharma@timesgroup.com

As Bengaluru girl Noyonita Lodh heads to the Miss Universe pageant in Doral (Miami, Florida) to compete with girls from 88 other countries, the 23-year-old student of Business Administration is determined to make India proud at the coveted international competition. Noyonita was picked as the winner of the Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Universe 2014 pageant last year and has since spent her time preparing rigorously for the pageant, where she will also be competing for various sub-contest titles, including Best National Costume, Miss Photogenic and Miss Congeniality. And the Indian beauty is all set to impress at the pageant, the winner of which will be gratified with USD 50,000.

"India has performed very well at the international pageants this year and I hope to be able to do the same for the country at Miss Universe. I have put my all in this preparation, pushing myself every single day," says Noyonita.

FOR MORE, SEE PAGE 10