THE KIT

Life of the party

Your holiday style report is here! Hit the circuit in the season's coolest clothes

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLOS + ALYSE

The key to a modern holiday look: Embrace a multi-textural approach like Toronto style star Brianna Wood. Choose leather and velvet, sequins and satin—or pile them all on at once just for fun.

KATHRYN BOWEN CORSET, \$1,240, KATHRYNBOWEN.COM. H&M BODY-SUIT, \$40, PANTS, \$40, HM.COM. ALDO SHOES, \$120, ALDOSHOES.COM. JEWELLERY, STYLIST'S OWN. HAIR & MAKEUP: KARIMA SUMAR/PIM.CA. STYLING: CHERRY WANG



Striding into the holidays like... Our top 20 strut-worthy dresses PAGE 5



A little razzle-dazzle The fascinating history of the sequin PAGE 4



Bright eyes How to knock off Hollywood's hottest makeup look PAGE 7

Her

Intense



BURBERRY

BURBERRY

THE KIT X PARAJUMPERS

Why it works

Style editor **Liz Guber** breaks down the beauty of an on-point streetstyle look. This week: an unusual colour combo that's actually amazing

When I was in middle school, my favourite colour combination was black and hot pink. It might have had something to do with the miraculous fact that I, the uncoordinated geek, had made the cheer squad, and, oddly, those were our colours. Although there are worse pairings (looking at you, grey and orange), it's not one I'm dying to re-wear anytime soon. Instead, I just might try this palette, seen at Paris Fashion Week last season. It's got all the high-contrast impact my inner 10-year-old would delight in, but, unlike younger me, it's far cooler. The real magic, though, is not just the opposing colours of the outfit but also the pieces themselves. The trousers are loud, dressy and make a statement, while the worker coat and T-shirt read more casual and unassuming. This contrast of unstudied ease and deliberate drama just works. Here's how to get the look.





VANS JACKET, \$130, VANS.CA. RIXO BAG, \$513, RIXO.CO.UK. EVERLANE, T-SHIRT, \$24, EVERLANE.COM. GUCCI PANTS, \$1,145, NET-A-PORTER.COM. RAY-BAN SUNGLASSES, \$213, RAY-BAN.COM



With their exaggerated lug soles and decorative laces, these are the fashion girl's snow boots.





The leather is water-repellent, and the slight wedge provides some lift—perfect for light snow.



Texture Play

Why not have fun with you outerwear this winter?

Want to change up your winter coat game? Look beyond the usual nylon parka for interesting textures and eye-catching details. Italian luxury outerwear brand Parajumpers has you covered. Read on for our picks.



The satin sheen on this jacket looks crisp and sporty. We love the high contrast between the mint green and tomato red colours.

PARAJUMPERS MARIAH B.C. JACKET, \$560, PARAJUMPERS.IT/CA



If you favour interesting details and

Winter, rebooted

Footwear for those who require a little fashion with their function

BY LIZ GUBER

ECCO, \$250, CA.ECCO.COM



The sole of this pair of waterproof suede boots resembles a running shoe—albeit a super futuristic one. **SOREL,** \$160, SORELFOOTWEAR.CA

This brand crafts its luxe takes on the hiking boot in a small village in Italy. The cheery green hue of this pair will lift your spirits even when winter enters a fifth month. **MONTELLIANA,** \$645, MATCHESFASHION.COM neutral tones, this coat is for you. The special-edition down topper features rugged leather patches and a cozy shearling lining.

PARAJUMPERS LONG BEAR SPECIAL COAT, \$2,040, PARAJUMPERS.IT/CA



The soft velour texture of this puffer, which features an adjustable hood and furry trim, will make you stand out from the crowd.

PARAJUMPERS STEPHANY JACKET, \$1,245, PARAJUMPERS.IT/CA



It doesn't get more luxurious than super-soft leather. We love the cropped silhouette of this jacket, which looks great with jeans as well as over chic sweater dresses.

PARAJUMPERS SCARLETT JACKET, \$1,475, PARAJUMPERS.IT/CA



I wore this pair of neutral-hued boots all of last winter and can attest to their warmth. Plus, the light hue means you'll never see salt stains.

COUGAR, \$200, COUGARSHOES.COM



Not everyone wants a pair of winter boots that look like, well, winter boots. This pair boasts a sleek silhouette and a textured lining for added warmth. **ALDO**, \$140, ALDOSHOES.COM

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KITCHENAID® ARTISAN® STAND MIXER, \$369.99, KITCHENAID.CA

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How sequins got their sparkle

Fashion history expert **Anya Georgijevic** reveals the fascinating stories behind the latest trends. This month: the most opulent holiday-party essential



Nothing says festive like the flashiness of sequins. They patiently hang in our closets all year long, only to be pulled out during holiday season. The playful texture, the glistening sparkle, the way their weight drapes on the body, hugging it in all the right places. They bring to mind the most glamorous eras: the carefree flappers of the 1920s and the impossibly gorgeous disco-goers circa Studio 54 times.

The extravagance of the sequin is rooted in the word itself. The word originates from sikka, the Arabic word for coin; in medieval Venice, a gold coin was called *zecchino*. Coins were traditionally sewn onto an item of clothing as a status symbol and also by nomadic cultures to keep their wealth close to their bodies while travelling. By the 17th century, coins were replaced by metallic disks that served a decorative purpose. One notable surviving piece from the Victoria & Albert collection is a women's waistcoat that boasts more than 10,000 gilded sequins. The reflective bits of metal continued to adorn women's garments and accessories over the next two centuries.

But it wasn't until the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922 that the sequin craze really took off. The Egyptian pharaoh's remains were discovered with garments sewn with gold sequin-like disks in flower shapes, presumably to prepare the king for a luxurious afterlife. This discovery lead to Egyptomania or Tutmania, where Egyptian motifs appeared in interior design, film and fashion-notable examples included the Ballets Russes costumes by Leon Bakst and Coco Chanel's ready-towear. Flappers embraced the adornments, which shimmered under the lights of art deco nightclubs.

Until the 1930s, sequins were typically made of metal. A new decade saw sequins made of gelatin, which were much less heavy. They were mass-produced and used in couture houses, where *petits mains* seamstresses painstakingly applied each sequin individually to the garments. But gelatin sequins would, unfortunately, melt if they got too wet or too warm. So, many surviving dresses from the era have missing sequins—for example, in the areas where one would frequently be held while dancing.

The sequin took a back seat during World War II only to return in the 1950s made from mylaracetate, which was replaced by vinyl plastic, the sequin we know today. Now, designers like Elissa Brunato are experimenting with more sustainable alternatives, such as cellulose sequins.

Since the '70s, sequins have been a perennial mainstay on the runways. This season, Dries Van Noten sprinkled sequins all over his collection, including a multicoloured armour-like top, a floral slip dress and an evening clutch, while Isabel Marant embellished her sculptural dresses, oversized sweaters and pencil skirts. And they'll sparkle on into Spring 2020 with Marc Jacobs's bright purple sequined pantsuit and Fendi's unexpected sequined gingham dress.

But sequins never shine so bright as they do during the holiday season. Although they've come a long way since King Tut's reign, sequins still exude extravagance like no other embellishment, a shiny marriage of opulence and playfulness. So dust off that sequined frock or clutch that's been waiting patiently all year. It deserves to be the life of the party.





ALICE + OLIVIA BLAZER, \$786, NET-A-PORTER.COM

MAISON MARGIELA BOOTS \$1.710. SHOPBOP.COM





PACO RABANNE CLUTCH, \$1,454, MATCHESFASHION.COM

SHOP THE TREND



H&M TOP, \$20, HM.COM \$1





RTA TOP \$345, INTERMIXONLINE.COM







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Best dressed list

An on-trend party look is the only plus-one you need this holiday season. Style editor Liz Guber selects the top 20 to try



LEOPARD Animal prints are a perennial classic, but thanks to a jolt of metallics and new silhouettes, they've never felt more of-the-moment



GANNI, \$297, BONADRAG.COM. ZARA, \$50, ZARA.COM. ZIMMERMANN, \$1,520, ZIMMERMANNWEAR.COM. SAINT LAURENT, \$3,095, HOLTRENFREW.COM

DARK FLORALS Consider a printed midi the ultimate wear-anywhere dress. Set on a dark background, these moody blooms are anything but saccharine







PREEN, \$1,011, NET-A-PORTER.COM. EVER NEW, \$170, EVERNEW.CA. RIXO, \$640, RIXO.CO.UK. MAJE, \$548, MAJE.COM



LEATHER Leather—whether real or faux—is a daytime staple. Flip the script and wear one of these slick dresses at night for a look that's a little unexpected



THE KIT X SHOPPERS DRUG MART



The gift of beauty

Gorgeous skin, perfect makeup and elegant fragrances are gifts that really keep on giving. Read on for the best beauty gifts to give and get this holiday season

Why does skincare make a great gift?

"Because it can benefit anyone, regardless of age or gender, and it's great for the holiday season as many people are dealing with winter skin ailments. If you know the recipient has specific concerns, get products designed to meet those needs. If not, go with hydration or antioxidant products as anyone can benefit."



How can we get our glowiest skin over the holidays? "Starting off with a really clean canvas

will allow the skin to better absorb skincare products and maximize their efficacy. The Foreo LUNA 3 provides deep yet gentle cleansing, and also offers a firming facial massage option. It's a relaxing part of your skincare ritual that makes your skin glow from increased circulation."

FOREO LUNA 3 FOR NORMAL SKIN, \$259, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA



What's the latest skincare innovation you're most ccite



BA&SH, \$550, 6BYGEEBEAUTY.COM. DOD BAR OR, \$1,540, MATCHESFASHION.COM NANUSHKA, \$899, NET-A-PORTER.COM. ZARA, \$100, ZARA.COM

SATIN On the runways slinky slips were paired with everything from tees to trousers. Whether you follow suit is up to you, but do add shoulder-grazing earrings



JONATHAN SIMKHAI, \$790, MODAOPERANDI.COM, WILFRED, \$118, ARITZIA.COM. ORGANIC BY JOHN PATRICK, \$250, ORGANICBYJOHNPATRICK.COM RÉALISATION PAR, \$330, REALISATIONPAR.COM

VELVET Talk about a blue crush. The luxe, lustrous material is the ultimate shortcut to looking holiday-party ready











"Skincare brushes! Quo Beauty has a beautiful new line made with synthetic materials that won't soak up or waste product. I love using the masking brush to apply face masks, so they distribute evenly and don't end up all over my hands. And I'm a big fan of the primer brush, as I find it saves on product."

QUO GLOW BEYOND SKINCARE BRUSH COLLECTION, \$35, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA



What's the perfect makeup purchase for the holidays? "Red lips are always on trend during the holiday season, and pair perfectly with the golden neutral shades in the Naked Honey eyeshadow palette. The gold in the palette is beautiful across all different skin tones, and the other neutrals are very versatile."

URBAN DECAY NAKED HONEY EYESHADOW PALETTE, \$68, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA



Which fragrance do you recommend as a gift this year?

"Lancôme Idôle would make a beautiful gift. The clean floral notes are lovely, and the bottle is impressive. This is a great gift for anyone on the go, as the bottle design is very thin but strong, so it can be carried in a purse without worrying about it breaking."

LANCÔME IDÔLE EAU DE PARFUM, \$135 (75 ML), SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA







On the bright side

A masterclass in colourful eyes from Hollywood makeup queen Pati Dubroff

BY KATHERINE LALANCETTE

Pati Dubroff's makeup looks are more colourful than Queen Elizabeth II's wardrobe. In the last year alone, she's painted a veritable rainbow of famous lids, from neon pink on Priyanka Chopra to glittery blue on Gal Gadot and pretty much every shade in between on Margot Robbie.

"People get stuck in a makeup rut and use the same neutral colours all the time," says the pro. "They end up not wanting to do their makeup because they're bored."

Dubroff, it seems, is incapable of boredom. She dips her brush in a palette's loudest hues and manages to make them look completely elegant. So when she stopped by Toronto as part of her Winners partnership recently, we jumped at the chance to find out how she does it. You have a knack for making even the craziest colours look wearable. What's your secret? "It's all about grounding the colour. I like to use neutral tones first to shape the eye and then I add the colour. It kind of gives it a place. So, for instance, if I'm doing a scary colour like hot pink, I use copper and mulberry first, then pop on the pink like a jewel or an accent. If you do pink on a bare lid, it'll look like a rabbit, like a sick little bunny [*laughs*]."

That's interesting, because bold shades can often feel a bit jarring. How do you keep things soft? "When I do makeup, I want it to feel like there's softness even if there's strength. I like when everything kind of flows. So if I'm doing green, I'll do soft browns and taupes first so it's not like the green is just sitting there. It helps it look like it belongs. But if that feels like it's too much

"When I do makeup, I want it to feel like there's softness even if there's strength."

for someone, you can use a bright eye pencil and apply it really close to the lash line."

You've done so many fun, colourful looks on Margot Robbie. Are there any that stand out for you? "I just love her so deeply and feel so lucky to get to be in her world. She's game to have fun and gives me room to not play it safe. We did a white eyeliner look in London, for an *I, Tonya* premiere, that was really fun. We also did a yellow eyeshadow that was, for me, really epic. At that moment, you hadn't seen people really playing with red carpet like that. She was bold enough to be like, 'Yeah, let's do it.' The dress felt very simple and floral, so we were like, 'How are we going to make this something more?'"

How do you like to balance the rest of the face when you're doing a bright eye? Well, I think the skin should always look like beautiful skin and not like a face full of makeup. As for the rest, there really are no rules, but generally I would keep everything else pretty gentle and simple. On the other hand, last week I did a look with an emerald eye and a very violet lip, and it was so beautiful. It worked because those colours are complementary, so it felt harmonious. It didn't have hard edges to it, so it still had a watercolour-type effect."

Priyanka Chopra is another client of yours. What's it like

working with her? "She's got an incredible face to paint and she's not shy. Her Met Gala looks have been really fun; we've done three together. Then last year, I was with her when she attended the royal wedding of Harry and Meghan. That was a favourite look for me. I got to do some purples. And being there for that was super exciting."

What's it like right before a client hits the carpet? "We're usually finishing last touches as they're walking out the door. I'll be on my hands and knees doing body makeup. Sometimes I actually go with them to the event and will touch them up in the car right before they step onto the carpet. For the Met Gala, I got to go in the Sprinter van with Priyanka and Nick [Jonas]. That was amazing, because vou're in the calm of the car and then they get out and it's pandemonium.'

What do you give clients to put in their clutch? "Always a lip, for sure. And I'll show them how to apply it, like 'Don't put the lipstick in the corners, only keep it in the centre.' If it's someone who tends to get shiny, I'll give them blotting papers or a puff with some powder on it, wrapped in a tissue. I often do individually wrapped cotton swabs to clean up their corners, too. If someone has blemishes that might pop through, I'll send them out with concealer. That's kind of it. There isn't much room in those bags, and they want their phone in there!'

THE KIT

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What should I wear to a holiday office party?



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