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A stylist, fashion blogger and writer making everyday fashion fun, accessible and achievable.
www.fashion-bombay.com

WORK YOUR WORK WEAR!

Getting back to work post-Ramadan holidays never got this stylish! These are some key ingredients to amp up your formal wear

Whether you are banker or a teacher, most formal work environments adopt a dress code to enforce a decorum and a sense of uniformity. Traditionally, formal wear include suits, blazers teamed with shirts or blouses and good fitting trousers or an appropriate length dress with minimal accessories. It's time to accelerate the boring routine workwear. Here are a few easy ways to pump life into your nine to five routine.

Replace your classic white shirt

Bid farewell to the good ol' white shirt and replace it with a silk blouse. Pick a creamy pastel shade, perfect for summer and work appropriate as well!

Stylist's Tip: Pair it with your pinstripe trousers, fitted pencil skirt or with dark denims as per the dress code of your office.

Get the look: Origem, Forever 21, H&M



Pinch of flare

These are a personal favourite addition to my wardrobe: flared trousers. They are breezy, chic and so flattering. Ideal for those of you with curves, flared trousers add a touch of femininity to otherwise masculine formal wear.

Stylist's Tip: Pair these pants with comfortable heels to add length and to slim your frame.

Get the look: Zara, Promod

Dash of colour

Give your monochrome blazer some rest this season. Infuse some colour and brighten up those post-holiday blues with a coloured blazers. Pick a fitted blazer that highlights your curves.

Stylist's Tip: Look for pastel or sorbet shades that are appropriate at work. You can also flirt with the crop blazer trend.

Get the look: Zara, Mango, H&M



Garnish your look

Something I never leave without is a statement necklace. They almost revamp a plain shirt and add a sparkling character to it. A perfect garnish to your mundane work wardrobe, you can choose from delicate necklaces or chunky statement collars as per your style.

Stylist's Tip: I'm lusting over rhinestones baubles that add sophistication to your look.

Get the look: Accessorize, H&M, Boutique Muscat

Image Courtesy: www.isme.com, www.missguided.co.uk, www.primark.co.uk

WEEKLY PICKS



MUST

Every girl needs a pair of nude pump heels. Take them to work, party or play with equal finesse. Get these absolute must-haves in a shade closest to your skin hue.

Available at Littlewoods.com

TRUST

A statement metallic buckle strap is sure to make heads turn in your next party. Trust these heels to add drama to a plain LBD.

Available at Littlewoods.com



LUST

Invest in a pair of quirky heels every now and then. I'm currently lusting over these block heels. Pair them with denim cut-offs and a neon blouse.

Available at Littlewoods.com

Tête-à-tête with Najla

With a humble attempt to fuse traditional Omani culture with modern craft, accessory designer Najla al Jamali talks about her latest handbag collection



1. Tell me about yourself. Did you study fashion?

I have no formal training or education in fashion. In fact, I did my undergraduate degree in Maths and Mathematical Physics followed by a Masters in Financial Management! I've been working in the oil and gas industry for the last 15 years mostly outside Oman. It has been an interesting journey.

Handbag designing is my creative outlet. I enjoy it because it makes a refreshing contrast to the seemingly very serious and

masculine work I do.

2. So, how did you decide making bags was your calling?

Like many things in life, it was accidental. I was stuck at home recovering from a foot surgery staring at the Omani *khanjar* hanging on the wall in my home in London.

It suddenly dawned on me that the belt would make a beautiful strap to a handbag and that's how it all started. Designing handbags also cured what was rapidly becoming a very

expensive habit!

3. What is the inspiration behind your designs?

Jizdaani is all about my appreciation for Omani culture and the desire to preserve traditional craft through incorporating in a modern context. Made locally from Italian leather, each bag is embellished with traditional Omani silver and accessorised with locally made woven straps that are sourced from Bedouin ladies. I wanted to reflect that traditional craft can be fused with

modern designs to produce truly exquisite fashion pieces that embody ethnic chic. I wanted to prove that the old does not have to give way to the new, indeed they can learn to co-exist in a synergy that is by far more beautiful and unique.

4. Was that a conscious process or was it a part of who you are?

I am passionately and fiercely Omani. I strongly believe that there are a few key elements of our culture and heritage to which we have a duty to protect. Today, I

see young people refusing to speak in our Omani dialect. I hope that Jizdaani will acquaint the customers with those elements that I use in the bags and their traditional use. If I am successful in doing just that, then I am happy that Omanis will continue to be acquainted with their heritage and hope that these elements do not die. I find it disheartening to meet so many people who have no idea what the pieces are called let alone their use.

5. How difficult was it to start a fashion business in Muscat? What were your challenges?

It certainly was not easy when I started. We don't do enough to support local businesses.

Customers need to look at these businesses as standalone rather than compare them to big chains and decide if what is on offer is to their liking and of required quality. I am a niche fashion label, I produce exclusive pieces in small quantities using real silver and handmade accessories which are hand-finished. I cannot compete on price with large-scale brands and it is unfair to compare me with them.

You can find Jizdaani at Boutique Muscat.

On the web visit

- ▶ www.jizdaani.com
- ▶ Facebook.com/Jizdaani
- ▶ Instagram/Jizdaani