

Wardrobe Essentials that go the Distance

Nothing it seems is more necessary nowadays than to seemingly expand our wardrobes without actually expanding our wardrobes! Having a closet that allows us to go from work to weekend is essential and women want pieces that help stretch their budget and are both appropriate for work and play. With help from the below style experts, you're about to learn the essentials and strategies for building a wardrobe that will help you maximize your budget, quickly change a look between the office and social hour, and assure you fit in with colleagues and cohorts alike!

One thing all of our experts agree on, accessories are a necessary component in building a work-to-play wardrobe! Michele Little from One Chic Mama, INC (OneChicMama.com) explains why, "This is where the magic comes in." Little states, "we should work to create accessories capsules – groupings of accessories that include shoes, handbags, jewelry, a scarf, a belt, etc. – that relate to each other and help your look make a real statement." Those capsules in turn make it easier to pare down for work, or spice up for happy hour. Taryn Scher, President of TK PR who also produced the first Greenville Fashion Week, feels the same way saying accessories are what makes your "transition looks go the furthest." Not only are many of them small enough to bring along in your purse and throw on after work, it's easy to go from "a simple pair of pearls to a long sparkly chandelier earring, or add a belt or funky brooch to your blazer" making your look instantly become "more downtown than stuffy."

So what else do we need to keep us fashionably stress-free when going directly from your "professional self" to your "social self?" K&G Fashion Superstore Fashion Merchandising Coordinator Sarah Zender lends this easy tip: "Trade in the structured jacket for a cozy, colorful sweater for an easy transition from office to evening." In under a minute you'll look the part and our guess is that you already have tons of fun cardis in your closet! Colin McDonald, Celebrity/Fashion stylist who counts Oprah Winfrey and Michele Obama as clients agrees, "A great fitted cardigan works best in the office and out on the town. It can serve as a cover for a sexier top or shell underneath." Wear both to work and remove the cardigan for drinks. Voila! Instant perfection!

McDonald also suggests "tailored slacks in dark colors that can work for both the office and look sexy at night with a perfect (you guessed it!) accessory."

One thing we've yet to discuss, but again is something you likely already own, is the ever transitional pencil skirt. Ashley Jude, a stylist at Tog + Porter says "every woman should have a pencil skirt in their closet." Not only does it serve as a "no-brainer for work with your button front shirts and blazers, but imagine it with a cute platinum tank tucked in and touched off with a skinny belt and a killer pair of heels."

So there you have it: all the ammunition you need to arm yourself with easy ways to do an about-face on "in-office" to "out-on-the-town" looks and not break the bank while doing so!