

For better living

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Chata charts the way to inexpensive elegance

What on earth am I going to wear today? How often have you posed this question to yourself?

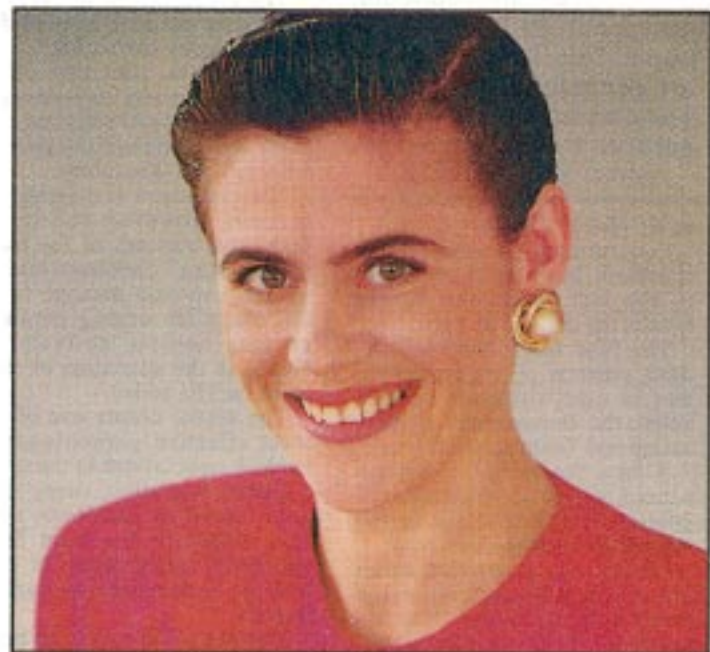
Chata Romano, a fashion consultant, currently based in Cape Town, but moving to Johannesburg next year, takes the worry and financial strain out of daily dressing with her informative workshops and personal consultations. **Sue Ettmayr** attended her recent Johannesburg workshop.

Chata Romano spelt out the basic wardrobe formula. You need only 10 cleverly put together garments to create 35 outfits. The formula is: *four bottoms* (three plain colours and one print) in denims, skirts or trousers; *three tops* (two plain colours and one print); and *three jackets* (all three in plain colours). Choose three colours that work together.

Avoid mixing black with navy, pink with red and royal blue with navy. This simple formula gives you 35 outfits.

This year's fashion colours are mango, burnt orange, old gold and lime green. Animal prints are also back in fashion.

Romano gave useful tips during her workshop. These



Just right . . . Chata Romano shows how good earrings can look when the right formula for wearing them is used.

included the fact that double-breasted jackets make you look bigger than you are, especially if you have big hips.

Dark clothing near the face makes one look very severe. It is better to wear a lighter colour under a darker colour; for example, a black jacket with a white blouse.

Your wardrobe should consist of 70 percent of garments for the top half of the body and 30 percent for the lower

half. The reason for this is that most people notice the top half of your body first.

Short women should not wear skirts all the way down to the ankles and they should not wear very high heeled shoes as this throws them out of balance. Flat shoes don't work well with pencil skirts.

Although many women at the workshop professed to owning more than 100 pairs of shoes, Ms Romano said that most women wore only

eight pairs of shoes on a regular basis.

If you do not know what belt width suits you, here is another Romano workable formula: place your thumb underneath your bustline and your index finger on your waist. Take off five centimetres from the distance between thumb and index finger, and you have your belt width.

Romano also has a formula for ascertaining the necklace length best suited to you. Place your thumb on your collar bone and your third finger in the middle of your bust line. The half-way line between these two points is your necklace length.

Her final tip concerned earrings and this easy formula should make earring purchases a breeze.

Take your flattened hand, at a 90-degree angle, just on your jawline. Move the hand in a straight line towards your ear. Should your hand brush against your earring it is too long for your face.

Romano will be giving winter workshops next year and she also does personal consultations working around your existing wardrobe. She will show you how to achieve confidence dressing and how to camouflage figure problems. Above all, she will show you that you don't have to be a millionaire to dress well.