

# GARB FOR THE WORKING GIRL

Short on inspiration and cash? Wardrobe consultant Chata Romano demonstrates how just one jacket metamorphoses into three fresh looks on former Miss SA-turned-marketing-wiz Wilma van der Bijl  
 STORY SILKE FRIEDRICH  
 PICTURES ANDRZEJ SAWA



## ▲ CASUAL-SMART

Seasoned staples of the universal wardrobe, denims and the white shirt can make a tired twosome. Lift the look by introducing a vivid, double-breasted jacket. Upgrade further with a flash of gold — buttons, belt, earrings and flat pumps — and you're all set for the movies, the mall or a casual lunch. A word of caution: don't overdo the shine, or the result will scream *kugel*. And leave off the heels. Understated elegance works best with denim. "I'm at my happiest in jeans," says Wilma, whose low-wattage glamour has become her trademark. "Either dressed up, like here; or with a leather jacket and T-shirt."



## ▲ SMART-FORMAL

The super-safe office outfit that's always right, simply because it's never wrong. The jacket and formal shirt remain; only this time they're teamed with a pleated, polka-dot mini. "Note the perfect proportions," says Chata. "The long-line jacket balances with the mini, and its formal cut is offset by the soft femininity of the skirt. A very long skirt would have drained Wilma, who's tall and slim."

## ◀ SMART

A look that's snappy, *and* office-smart. The formal classic shirt and pencil-skirt are enlivened by fun elements: chain-belt, flat pumps and bright, casually-tied scarf. "This ensemble can be worn in most office situations," says Chata. "Radiating confidence, it's ideal for the young go-getter." It certainly got the thumbs up from Wilma, whose visible position as marketing manager for a Cape Town-based firm requires her to look the picture of professionalism all week.