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STYLE

Anything goes

From clashing prints to high-waisted bikini bottoms, **Rebekah Kendal** takes a look at summer's hottest trends

As your coats and boots retire to the back of your cupboard for a well-deserved siesta, it's time to revitalise your summer wardrobe with plenty of colourful, carefree items.

PRINTS CHARMING

If what you are wearing is covered in tribal motifs, polka dots, flowers, animal print, geometric designs or celestial images, you're bang on trend. After all, this season is all about prints. According to Robyn Higgins, formerly a buyer for Harrods and now a fashion blogger, the print trend for summer is: madly bright and clashing. The trend – or an iteration of it – is likely to stick around for at least another season.

'A few brands took their inspiration from Africa for their autumn/winter

collections, such as Stella Jean with a graphic interpretation on African fabrics; Riccardo Tisci focused on animals in his fantasy collection for Givenchy; and Christopher Bailey's painterly prints for Burberry were more muted for winter than the bold brush strokes seen at the Celine Spring/Summer 2014 show.

'Overall, the look for both seasons was effortlessly mixed together. Whatever you do this summer and however you choose to clash your prints, make sure you wear them with pride!'

So how do you pull off this playful trend and still look elegant? Sandton-based stylist Chata Romano, who heads up an international image consultancy, says you can get away with wearing prints from head to toe if you are tall and slim



www.dinersclub.co.za PAGE 155

STYLE

or if you have the confidence to do so. If not, opt for one printed item and stick to the basics with the rest of your outfit.

'If you have a fuller figure, avoid wearing prints on the bottom half of your body,' suggests Romano. 'Wear them on the top half of your body only. You can use your fist to figure out what size print works best for your body frame; the size of the print should not be bigger than the size of your closed fist.'

A TOUCH OF FIFTIES GLAM

Let pinups of the 1950s inspire your swimwear choices: think one-pieces with cinched waists, high-waisted bikini bottoms, sweetheart necklines and cute little pockets and frills. If you want to incorporate the trend, but can't stomach the thought of going full '50s, opt for vintage prints such as gingham, polka dots or ditsy floral. For a more modern take on classic silhouettes, play around with fierce animal prints, tribal motifs or digital prints of cityscapes.

Another major swimwear trend for this season is mismatched bikinis. If you find the prospect a little daunting, start with something simple – wear a plain black bikini bottom with a colourful or patterned



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Regardless of the trend you choose to follow, Romano cautions that the following rules still apply when it comes to finding the right fit.

'If you have a small bust, rather don't wear bandeau tops, as the flat expanse of fabric will only make your bust seem smaller. Opt for a bustier style instead.

'If you are someone who has wider hips, avoid the straight-cut bottom, because the eye travels from hip to hip, so opt for a high-waisted cut instead. You should also avoid peplum flouncy skirts, as they will add too much volume. Finally, if you have a fuller tummy, a ruched element gets a gold star.'

STACK IT UP!

Summer is about carefree vacations, days spent lazing next to the pool and warm balmy nights. Jewellery trends, says Higgins, echo that sense of freedom.

'The stacking trend has become a constant in summer jewellery and it is so simple to pull off. When stacking bracelets, the look reminds you of a stack of holiday trinkets built up over time. It's meant to look a little eclectic and thrown together, but I would advise you to have a theme or idea of what you want to achieve to create an effortless look. This is key when layering up necklaces or rings. Try stick to one metal colour (gold, silver or rose gold) and consider how you are going to mix heavier and finer pieces. If you are unsure, it's easier to pick one option and

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