

# PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

## Living

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FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012

SECTION D



# pastel palette

Nine West polka dot blouson peasant top (\$69.50), available in select Bon-Ton stores nationwide and at [www.bonton.com](http://www.bonton.com)



Flowing maxi-dress by PilyQ (\$220), from [www.edressme.com](http://www.edressme.com)

## fashions go soft for spring

BY JOANNE KLIMOVICH HARROP | TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Add pastels to your spring wardrobe's color palette. Soft pinks, baby blues, light purples and pale yellows are fresher and newer this season, fashion experts say.

"Lighter, softer shades tend to signal a warm season," says Alia Ahmed-Yahia, chief style director for Loft. "Pastels aren't saturated colors, so you often see these hues in lighter, more airy spring and summer weight fabrics. Spring is also the time when you shed layers and the heavy, dark clothing of winter. Pastel shades are dramatically different than the palette most women have been wearing all winter, and can instantly revitalize your closet."

Don't call them Easter egg colors anymore, says Gregg Andrews, Nordstrom fashion director. What makes pastels different this season is they have a little bit more depth and intensity to them.

PASTEL · D3

**ACCESSORIES** (TOP TO BOTTOM): Kohls Cares Dana Buchman watch (\$10), available at [www.kohls.com](http://www.kohls.com)  
Juicy Couture yellow solitaire drop earrings (\$52), available at [www.endless.com](http://www.endless.com)  
Nine West "Topshoe" blue sky peep-toe pump with strap (\$89), available at [www.ninewest.com](http://www.ninewest.com)  
Naked Cushion ring in rose quartz and 14K yellow gold (\$1,291) on [www.gemvara.com](http://www.gemvara.com)

# pastel palette

*fashions go soft for spring*



Ali Ro "Olivia" pastel dress (\$358), available at [www.ali-ro.com](http://www.ali-ro.com)

**PASTEL** FROM D1

They are not "the sugary and sweet" pastels of the past. They have a little tartness to them, he says. "And, because they do, they are a lot more flattering and sophisticated," Andrews says of the muted pastels. "When pastels are too child-like looking, they don't look right on women."

Pastels can mix with soft neutrals like beiges and tans and grays and they coordinate well with off-white and white, he says. They don't have to be solids; pastels look sharp in prints and patterns, too. He recommends pairing a pastel outfit with a nude shoe.

"Let the color be the focal point of the outfit," Andrews says. "There are also lots of interesting fabrics which tend to be fluid which gives a softness to a garment, giving it a more feminine look."

"It's always refreshing to move out of a dark, winter palette into the subtle warmth of pastels, which is a nice interlude before we jump into summer brights," says Judy Vojtech, designer of W.H. Petronela. "Pastels bring thoughts of longer days and flowers in bloom. We're having a 'pretty' moment and it feels so right."

Pastels look best when they're used to accent daytime neutrals, but look pretty for evening when paired with chic little dresses, she says.

Start with light-color pants, says Ahmed Yahia,

because it is easier to try a new trend with a familiar piece. Pastels are incredibly versatile. Pair them with other pastels, and neutrals like chambray or khaki. A more dramatic look would pair a solid-color pastel top with a printed pant.

"Pastels are one of top trends you'll find this spring season," says Christine Hojnacki, vice-president promotion and publicity for Bon-Ton. "These light colors both brighten a wintery wardrobe as well as exude a lady-like quality. Adding in a combination of lace, crochet and light airy fabrics help give this color palette a fashionable twist."

For example, pair pale purple denim with a white cotton shirt or lace blouse, she says.

"(Pastels) are very much feminine," says Lindsay Huggins, senior fashion market editor for Self magazine. "I



AG Adriano Goldschmied legging ankle jeans in sulfur sun (\$168), available at [www.agjeans.com](http://www.agjeans.com)

would say to look at the Louis Vuitton spring collection for inspiration, as well as Jill Stuart."

The top color is pink, but mint, sky blue, pistachio and peach are interesting options, Huggins says.

"The tricky part to wearing this trend is not looking like a little girl," she says, "I would suggest pairing these colors with sophisticated jewelry and accessories."

Pastel hues are available in everything from skirts to dresses to light, spring coats to handbags to footwear and legwear. A wonderful way to infuse pastels into your wardrobe is through hosiery, says Sally Kay, president and CEO of The Hosiery Association. Pastel hosiery gives a spring outfit a splash of color, and it speaks to the popularity of vintage-inspired, delicate ladylike looks.

"Think tradition, timeless, royalty, and, of course, princess, dutchess, queen and even prime minister," Kay says. "Pastel hosiery is offered in a variety of shades and hues. The colors run the gamut. Think spring flowers, Easter eggs and sorbet. Lace, floral, polka dot, basket weave, crochet patterns are popular."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: W.H. Petronela crocodile clutch with detachable gold chain strap (\$675), available at [www.whpetronela.com](http://www.whpetronela.com)

Guess "Tacka" platform shoe with cork bottom and ankle strap (\$109.99), available at [www.myshoes.com](http://www.myshoes.com)

Nepali by TDM's "Zebra" lavender scarf (\$105), available at [www.tdmdesigninc.com](http://www.tdmdesigninc.com)



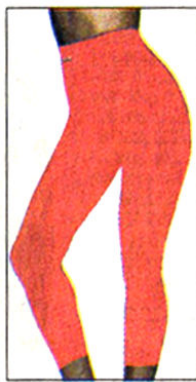
FROM LEFT: Sydney pastel-color hats (\$38 each), available at Specialty Luggage, Sweet Time Cafe, Fedora Pittsburgh, Polka Dots Presents and [www.wallarohats.com](http://www.wallarohats.com) | Estee Lauder Pure Color eye shadow (\$20), available at Estee Lauder counters and [www.estelauder.com](http://www.estelauder.com)

ABOVE: Ramy Brook top (\$295), available at [www.ramybrook.com](http://www.ramybrook.com)

For footwear, there are plenty of choices, says Leanna Gregor, fashion-trends expert for myshoes.com. Lavenders and shades of gray are great choices in pastel shoes and sandals.

"The colors are very mature and sophisticated-looking," Gregor says. "They look awesome in pumps and wedges with cork bottoms. And most of them you can wear all year long, because they colors are subtle."

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DKNY smoothies capri leggings in sorbet (\$18), available at Nordstrom