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It's time to amp up your wardrobe!

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POWER TRIP

*Gear up in bold
fashions with monu-
mental impact!*



Working Girl

Diversify your style portfolio with eye-catching pieces that step from the boardroom and onto the street.

If the proverbial glass ceiling has been shattered, then so, too, have staid rules about what makes for suitable work attire. No longer restricted to pin-stripes and shoulder pads, today's business attire is much more style savvy, appealing to a new generation of power women who are just as interested in brokering deals as getting their hands on the latest It-bag.

Though dress codes vary across professions, there are key pieces that every polished career woman can depend on. Make an investment in this quintet of 9-to-5 essentials, all of which have been revamped by designers with a knack for sharp and sexy tailoring. The best part? They'll serve you well in the boardroom and beyond—not a shoulder pad in sight.



1. Maggie Gyllenhaal in a scene from the movie *Secretary*
2. Still from the movie *Working Girl* with Melanie Griffith, Harrison Ford and Sigourney Weaver

It SUITS You

Deconstruct the iconic office uniform by combining eye-catching separates for an inspiring new suited look. Pair a metallic pussy-bow blouse with a buttery leather pencil skirt; throw a silk-trimmed blazer over a curve-skimming printed dress—with a little creativity, there's an inexhaustibly chic array of options from which to choose.



Valentino



Belstaff



Editor's Picks



Casadei

WEAR WITH

Go for classic shapes, but play around with textures for a refreshing, meeting-appropriate outfit.

WEAR WITH

Such an iconic piece begs to be contrasted against elegant yet edgy outerwear, like an oversized jacket.

Vanessa Bruno



DKNY



Roksanda Ilincic



Givenchy



Valentino



Jil Sander

Editor's Picks

The Mighty TOTE

Several luxe labels offer a take on the top-handle tote, usually equipped with a handy shoulder strap extension for easy transport. Dazzling in a variety of glossy leathers, the structured, roomy shape is large enough to fit many a client file, techie accessory, and on-the-go beauty essential as you shuffle from one crosstown meeting to the next.

WORKING GIRL



DKNY

AFTER Hours

Power networking calls for a day-to-night dress versatile enough to deliver you from corner office to cocktail hour, where many a new account is clinched. As you ply your clients with champagne-spiked concoctions, deliver some extra "wow" in a sensual sheath dress with elongating seams. Feminine and professional, it will help you up your fashion and business game with no frills—save for the occasional peplum detailing.



WEAR WITH

Don a sculpted frock with wild and colorful patterning for a head-to-toe style statement.



Well HEELED

The sexy sister of the demure kitten heel, today's office pump boosts self-assuredness with the help of a few seductive extra inches. The combination of a stacked platform toe and trim stiletto makes for footwear expressing the perfect balance between poise and "don't mess with me" authority. Many a designer has put their spin on the au courant shape; watch out for finer hardware details such as zippered metal accents, patent-colored leathers, and animal skin texturing for a look that's even more dangerously sexy.



WEAR WITH

Talk the talk with statement footwear or python handbag to add some extra punch to this power frock.



SHE WEARS *The Trousers*

After seasons of girlish overload, it's time to hit a new stride with the revamped trouser suit: strictly tailored and sleek, but never boxed in! The best of the batch are all about seventies flair (think Saint Laurent, not corporate casual). Cut a fresh line whether you opt for a cropped cigarette or lean stovepipe trouser, the only must: a nipped waist. And the best part: the lean lines elongate for mile-long legs and that's a surefire recipe for success!



WEAR WITH

Think this is just for daytime? Think again. The trouser suit is the chicest option for evening. Opt for le smoking with a rock'n'roll vibe and pair with a pussy bow blouse and fedora.

WEAR WITH

Choose figure-hugging pieces that are equal parts sophisticated and provocative, such as dresses with asset-flattering cuts.



Jil Sander



Vionnet



La Perla

Editor's
Picks



La Perla



Stella McCartney



Stella McCartney

The **Secret WEAPON**

Curve-sculpting underpinnings are a must for any woman's sartorial arsenal. Though these confidence and bust-boosting pieces may not make an appearance during client-facing interactions, they silently streamline physiques, balancing proportions while adding sleek shapeliness to any ensemble. Rely on balconettes and bustiers to keep you in top form as you make your way up the professional pecking order.



No.21



Donna Karan



Jil Sander

Editor's
Picks



Rachel Zoe



Emilio Pucci



Rachel Zoe