

Celebs, mags are go-tos for style ideas

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The Sacramento Bee

Published: Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010 - 12:00 am | Page 5I

Last Modified: Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010 - 10:33 am

The new year comes packaged with high expectations for happiness, health and – dare we say? – wardrobe wealth.

Fashion offers opportunities to jump-start 2010 right from your own closet. It's time, for one thing, to carry out that New Year's resolution to live more colorfully – an attractive idea as we enter Sacramento's gray days of January.

To get some ideas, check out this month's fashion magazines. From **Vogue** to **Harper's Bazaar**, the pages flip-flop between a bold mix of colors (fuchsia, green, turquoise) and natty neutrals (ivory, khaki, taupe) that offer signals of what's to come for spring.

No surprise, celebrities are the faces fashion turns to for inspiration: **Kate Hudson** on the **Harper's Bazaar** cover, **Rachel McAdams** on **Vogue**, **Natalie Portman** on **Marie Claire**, **Jennifer Lopez** on **Allure** – and props to **Whitney Houston** for continuing her comeback on the cover of **InStyle**.

January also kicks off the awards season, with one of fashion's biggest red-carpet events, the **Golden Globes** on Jan. 17.

Felicia Strati, owner of Felicia Strati Boutique in midtown (1901 Capitol Ave.), says celebrities continue to influence what designers design and stores stock.

"We try to identify with them," she says. "The secret is to pick one who inspires you, whether it's their clothing sensibilities or even their hairstyles."

And no one has done more for color in a single year than first lady **Michelle Obama**.

Carl Sferrazza Anthony, historian for the **National First Ladies' Library** in Canton, Ohio, gives Obama high marks.

"For the first time in half a century, the clothes of a first lady have struck such a popular appeal and curiosity with citizens – other than within the elite class – that this has already become one of several primary elements defining **Michelle Obama's** tenure," Anthony told the **Chicago Tribune**.

"On her, color is beautiful," Strati says. "Most of us can wear blue, but on her, it's stunning. She's definitely setting the pace for this trend."

For the rest of us, adding color might require a leap of fashion faith. Strati says the first step is to find a color you can embrace and add it as an accessory. For example, two of her must-haves for 2010 are colorful hand warmers and hats.

"The hand warmers are like a glove that goes up over the elbow," she says. "Some versions are fingerless, but they go nicely with a sleeveless or cap-sleeve dress.

"This new accessory refines a look, and it's more adventurous and edgy than wearing a basic top underneath (to cover arms)."

Another option is brightly colored patterned tights, which dramatically change a simple black dress or black skirt and top.

Strati "built" the outfit shown on this page, which includes a magenta sweater dress with matching hand warmers and hat.

"Colors are a communication of your mood," she adds. "They express the state of mind you're in. Just as Michelle Obama is powerful, we can be powerful, too."