

Insider

Fall FASHION

September is here, and that means it's time to reinvent your wardrobe. PBI recently spoke with **Saks Fifth Avenue** Senior Vice President, Fashion Director **Roopal Patel** about the colors, styles, and pieces everyone will be rocking this fall. (saksfifthavenue.com)

PBI: What major trends for women do you expect to see this season?

Patel: We're really excited about the movement [toward] empowering women. Designers were affected by what's happening in the world today and are dressing women in what we're calling "New Power Suiting." The return of the suit feels fresh and directional. It's not just your classic suit of boardroom stripes or black; there's a lot of novelty whether it's brocade, printed florals, crystal, diamanté. We also love the return of the jacket. A statement jacket can really bring out your personality. [Also,] it's a decadent and opulent season, so you'll see incredible texture with velvet, sequin, feathers. Some of our favorite shows of the season had this maximalist approach, like Gucci, Prada, and Saint Laurent to name a few.

What trends are losing speed?

There's a little less fringe. Feathers are the new fringe. If you're deciding between a fringe jacket or that feather-embellished top, I'd probably go with the [latter].

What colors will be most popular?

We saw designers experimenting with bold and graphic color. The one combination we love the most is a pink dress with a great red shoe. We love a pink and red combination. It feels unique.

What about shoe styles?

It is a boot season, and the most cov-

eted [style] is a Saint Laurent crystal boot. It's this idea of twinkle toes, of really bling shoes done in a cool, modern way that isn't just for evening. It's also all about a white statement boot or a red boot. Slouchy boots with '70s glamour are trending. We saw some great slouchy boots at Saint Laurent, as well as at Isabel Marant and Gianvito Rossi. Combat boots, booties, velvet booties—there's a boot wardrobe every woman is going to embrace.

And handbags?

When we think of power dressing, you've got the power suit but we're also seeing a power bag, which is more structured. It has a top handle, and it's not so oversized that it feels like a work bag. Also, with all of the white boots, we do love a matching white bag. It complements a lot of colors and adds a little bit of wow.

What are your go-to timeless looks and pieces you like to rock on a daily basis?

I love having a new interpretation of a stripe. Is it a striped dress? A striped skirt? Being able to mix stripes with solids or even clashing it with another print is always great. And I love cargos—cargo coats, cargo jackets. It's like my version of a denim jacket.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SAKS FIFTH AVENUE



FALL 2017 WILL BE ALL ABOUT FEATHERS AND POWER DRESSING, PREDICTS PATEL. PUT A POSH SPIN ON BOTH TRENDS WITH THESE KILLER RED FEATHER PUMPS BY PRADA AND A COOL BLUE SUIT FROM HAIDER ACKERMANN.

FINISH YOUR LOOK WITH A STRUCTURED POWER BAG, SUCH AS THIS BOLD CARRYALL FROM GUCCI.



A STATEMENT JACKET, LIKE THIS GRAPHIC DESIGN BY DIOR, CAN ELEVATE ANY ENSEMBLE AND CAPTURE YOUR PERSONALITY.



WHO ARE PATEL'S FAVORITE UP-AND-COMING DESIGNERS? FIND OUT AT PALMBEACHILLUSTRATED.COM/FALLFASHION