

# Fashion Forecast

by Sandra Keiser and Brenda Schweder

## Lighten up

The somber shades of winter give way to lighter spring colors. Black-and-white, taupe, tan, navy, and all shades of gray are punctuated with a touch of color, including pink, pale blue, yellow, and chartreuse. Styles from the '80s are still going strong — you'll see the decade's influence in prints, silhouettes, and jewelry motifs.

### HIGHLIGHT WITH BOLD PRINTS

Graphic prints decorate cardigans, off-the-shoulder tops, and miniskirts. Look for **geometric patterns and graffiti styles** with squiggles and haphazard splatters. Animal prints and polka dots are also popular. Horizontal stripes can be fun, too — the wider, the better, especially in a super-long sweater.

### SPACIOUS SILHOUETTES DOMINATE

The season's clothes continue to emphasize volume. In tops, **sleeves are the focal point**. Look for flared batwing or kimono styles or long, long sleeves with an elastic cuff to create a pouf at the wrist. Sleeves display details like flowers, ruffles, and bows. In a nod to the '80s, these voluminous tops taper into tiny bottoms — skinny

**In a black jersey dress, batwing sleeves taper into a fitted waist (top right).**

**Try an Asian-inspired floral dress with kimono sleeves (right).**

pants, cuffed short shorts, or microminis. If you don't love the season's short hemlines, opt for a pair of longer shorts.

Versatility makes the **empire-waist dress** the must-have of the season. Try a matte jersey dress with leggings or jeans for work and patterned tights and knee-high boots for after work. If you're traveling, you can roll up your dress and throw it in your suitcase for low-maintenance style. Pick a lightweight rayon jersey in a neutral color like black or gray.



Stripes, animal prints, and bold patterns dress up knit tops.

# ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL



Although dark metals are still striking, jewelry motifs are lighthearted for spring. Swallows, doves, owls, and chicks hover in pendants and earrings; you'll also see pairs of birds with touching beaks. Metal wings are popular, whether alone or in a pair attached to a heart. For a minimalist look, wear a chain with a single gold-toned feather.

If you like big jewelry, huge, round filigree earrings are everywhere. Look for them in bright, playful colors, enclosing animal silhouettes or words like "fantastic." The look is cute and flirtatious. For something a little more grown-up, flowers and leaves are timeless motifs, especially as embellishments to rings and clutches.

Try a necklace with a dragonfly or a bird outline.



Huge metal earrings show a cute nature scene.

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## DO IT YOURSELF

Wear huge filigree earrings (p. 58) with a colorful tunic.



Mix shells, coins, and leaves in an organic necklace and earrings (p. 76).



A long necklace with chain and crystals (p. 92) complements a wrap or empire-waist dress.



## HAVE A HEART

Hearts lend a touch of romance to spring's jewelry. To accessorize a dress-and-jeans pairing, wear a big, puffed heart necklace or a chain bracelet with heart-shaped links. For a modern twist on the trend, try a black heart in crinkled metal or earrings in laser-cut resin. Bows are everywhere, too, in rhinestone-encrusted, gold-toned metal with drops and chains dangling below.

Layer necklaces with bows and charms, or try a single oversized heart.



## Jewelry links

- [catbirdnyc.com](http://catbirdnyc.com)
- [conroywilcox.com](http://conroywilcox.com)
- [jenniferkellogg.com](http://jenniferkellogg.com)
- [laurenwimmer.com](http://laurenwimmer.com)
- [trunkshop.com](http://trunkshop.com)
- [ylang23.com](http://ylang23.com)