

# WORKING WARDROBE

WITH THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS ON THE HORIZON IT'S TIME TO MOVE THE COATS TO THE BACK OF THE WARDROBE, DIVE INTO BLOCK COLOUR AND GET THE SHADES OUT, SAYS **CAROLINE WILLIAMS**

**T**HESE MONTHS ARE THE BEST FOR FASHION, WITH SO MUCH VARIETY AND A LOOK OF 'ANYTHING goes' within the current trends.

Spring and summer looks are both creative and varied. There is a lot of use of bold colour, which is cleverly mixed and matched with different textures and prints. We are also seeing a strong retro vibe coming through: think Hawaiian prints and *Miami Vice*.

This is the time when we have a variety of events coming up in the corporate calendar, including Ascot and Wimbledon, for which we need to start choosing outfits.

This season dare to be a little different – there will always be regulations for corporate events, but you'll have more fun by mixing it up a little.

Wear a bright bold colour you would not normally pick and that is out of your comfort zone. Everyone suits colour, so be brave. Buy a pair of coloured retro sunglasses for an instant look update. These can be cheap and cheerful, or expensive and designer. There is an array at a variety of prices depending on your budget, so the choice is yours.

Go for a strong print. Whether it is tropical, floral, or just good old stripes, experiment with something different in a print. If this is new to you and somewhat daunting, try it in a small dose like a scarf or a headband, or perhaps start with a black and white print. You'll be amazed how much the small details really count and make such a difference to your overall look.

Invest in a decent blazer as a wardrobe staple – fresh creams and crisp whites are ideal for summer. Men should be daring and opt for a print, perhaps a check or pinstripe in a colour. A blazer always looks smart and is perfect for the office too, so an all-round good buy for the capsule wardrobe. Above all, don't be afraid to mix – colour and prints look fantastic together, especially this season.

**Caroline Williams is a personal fashion stylist and MD of De Vallenger Design. For more information visit [devallenger.com](http://devallenger.com), follow the company on Facebook at [facebook.com/devallenger](https://www.facebook.com/devallenger), or on its Twitter feed, @devallenger**



**BLUE SQUARE SUNGLASSES, BURTON, £12**

WHEN IT COMES TO SHADES, THINK BOLD BLOCK COLOURS



**BLACK AND WHITE STRIPED DRESS, VERY, £25**

MAKE A STATEMENT IN BLACK AND WHITE STRIPES; TEAM WITH POP COLOUR ACCESSORIES FOR A MORE MODERN FEEL

Classic monochrome never goes out of style  
**De Vallenger silk tracksuit trouser, £95**  
**De Vallenger ivory frill sleeve top, £95**  
**Violet Darkling Tarsia necklace, £80**  
**Christian Louboutin Pigalle kid shoes, £425**

STOCKISTS [BURTON.CO.UK](http://BURTON.CO.UK), [CHRISTIANLOUBOUTIN.COM](http://CHRISTIANLOUBOUTIN.COM), [DEVALLENGER.COM](http://DEVALLENGER.COM), [MARKSANDSPENCER.COM](http://MARKSANDSPENCER.COM),



**BLACK HOLE  
LACE-UPS.  
OFFICE. £69.99**

AN ÜBER-COOL SOLE ADDS  
THE PERFECT TOUCH OF  
FASHION QUIRKINESS



**ORANGE  
SANDALS.  
NEXT. £35**

SHOW OFF YOUR PERFECTLY  
PEDICURED FEET WITH  
LUXE-FOR-LESS FOOTWEAR



**LINEN BLEND  
WINDOWPANE  
BLAZER.  
M&S. £149**

THIS LINEN BLAZER HAS A  
GREAT PRINT AND IS PRACTICAL  
FOR THE OFFICE TOO



**MARIKA  
JACKET.  
MONSOON. £49**

THIS SMART JACKET WILL SEE  
YOU THROUGH FROM DAY TO  
EVENING CORPORATE  
EVENTS IN STYLE



This jacket is the perfect capsule  
wardrobe piece for casual cool, when  
you want an alternative to a blazer  
M&S: leather jacket, £149