

AS YOU BUILD YOUR WARDROBE WITH
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DISCERNING EYE THAT RECOGNIZES
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DESIGN YOURSELF

A great wardrobe, like DIY furniture, looks best
when the pieces fit. By Hans Gschliesser

You've arrived! You've moved away from thrift shop finds and embraced a designer aesthetic. You've trashed the worn futon and are now sitting pretty on a Mies van der Rohe sofa. Gone are the days of piecing together tag sale furniture in the hopes of creating a cohesive look that echoes your lifestyle. And so it should be for your wardrobe.

You're busy, and your time is too valuable to rely on bargain basement sales. Maybe you'll get lucky and stumble on something that's the right color or style, if it even fits. Likely not.

So take the experts' advice: find a look that works for you and shop in a store that consistently delivers the goods.

Sometimes the best option is to focus on a single designer, like Zegna or Canali or Ralph Lauren. Find one with a fit that works for your body type and a look that reflects your attitude. Once you've got the foundation, you can round out your wardrobe with items from other designers and brands.

Many interior designers these days choose to strike a balance between modern and classic. This applies to your appearance as well. Learn to make your look work without seeming forced or over-styled. Pare each outfit down to the essentials and you'll be perceived as confident and competent.

And remember: you're a work in progress. As you build your wardrobe with quality pieces, you'll cultivate that discerning eye that recognizes a good investment. It all adds up.