



Hobo International Arrive belt, in gold, \$68 @ Bloomingdales, McLean; 703-556-4600; www.bloomingdales.com.



Accessory Necessity

Pants: "We [designers] are now looking to sheens and metallics to enhance a richness of style," Asamoah says. "For bargain shoppers, that kind of palette is great, because it accentuates and reflects whatever other colors you're wearing."

Oscar de la Renta's look is what fashion expert Pamela Burns considers a well-selected match of the season's metallics and neutrals, married in a "whimsical flash" of white. "[This runway outfit] is made clean with the belt," says Burns, a merchandiser-turned-pro shopper of more than 18 years. "The belt shows how you can take a simple accessory and make all that it encompasses chic." And for no-room-to-fudge budgets, it's good to know these kinds of buckled centerpieces can be found at all different price points. "This is something that could be matched with a similar item from H&M, Bloomingdales or Nordstrom."

Jacket: Asamoah names ruffles "the number one trend" for buyer-friendliness. "They tend to take away layers and deceive the eye." In this design, the variety of angles in the sleeves is also in line with the pro-public theme. "The more vertical a design, the more restrictive."



Oscar De La Renta

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