

White all right now

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color casts, it works for white. The differences only highlight the richness of the lace, embroidery or eyelet that also might be part of the outfit.

"There's cool blueish white, white with a yellow cast, a rosy cast, a creamy cast. It's kind of cool to mix it all up. Wear a vanilla shade, ecru and optic white, and mix it all together. If you're confused about the different whites, go to the local paint store, they'll sort it out," says Kors with a laugh, who wears white, er, ecru, jeans 12 months a year.

White is for all seasons, Kors says, though the ecru and sand-colored shades are easier to pull off than optic white when there's still a chill in the air. For early spring, he suggests a creamy white lace dress with metallic shoes and maybe a fur cape. In the summer, wear that same dress with flip-flops.

White actually can be tricky for shoes, says Coach president and executive director Reed Krakoff, so, if in doubt, go with a casual style or more of a parchment color. He points to the Dori slingback from the current collection that has a creamy color and gold hardware. "It has a natural color, a stacked heel and gold hard-

ware, which breaks it up. It's not a bridesmaid's or nurse's shoe."

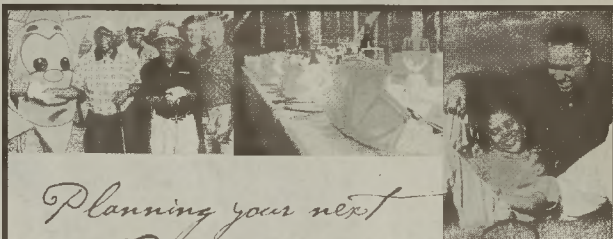
For bags, though, almost anything goes. "White is as easy as black, now that people are wearing it year-round," says Krakoff, who is indeed wearing a white shirt during this interview.

Even once this white "trend" is over, Krakoff expects white to stick around as a basic color—like black and navy—that will be integrated into future collections.

"We'll always have it. It's a new basic. Now it's particularly popular, but two years from now it won't be as popular. It's like metallic this year. It was huge a year or two ago, and now it's a basic," he says.

For now, though, white "is the story for spring," says Gregg Andrews, a fashion director for Nordstrom, with white-on-white as the chicest outfit and the white handbag as the "iconic item" of the season.

"The great thing about white is that it can be worn head to toe for a very chic fresh and sophisticated look or it can be the neutral of the season. It can be feminine if you wear it with soft, muted pastels, or you can wear white and beige, white and camel or white and brown."



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More choices than you think

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director of the Pantone Color Institute, a color research and information center based in Carlstadt, N.J.

To figure out why, Eiseman says you have to look at more

than clothes. What's usually popular in fashion also is prominent in housewares, film, food, and other areas of everyday life.

"Usually there's more than one reason that brings a color

into play. Because we've been so inundated with color the last few years, there comes a time when white will start looking calming again," says Eiseman.

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Debate over cancer treatment

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cally cutting out dysplasia.

The problem: The only treatment completely proven to prevent esophageal cancer is to cut out that part of the esophagus, a high-risk operation, conclude Spechler and colleague Dr. Rhonda Souza, who recently reviewed the evidence in an American Cancer Society journal.

The less invasive Barrett's treatments haven't been studied long enough to know if they'll really eliminate the

cancer risk, or if it will just return—and they, too, cause some side effects, the pair caution.

Still, the treatments do offer an option for patients too old or ill for major esophageal surgery, says Dr. Prateek Sharma of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, a spokesman for the American Gastroenterological Association. And for those with those precancerous dysplasia spots, they're a potential middle ground.

One thing all agree on: Every Barrett's patient needs high-powered medication to control their acid reflux, even those who don't complain of heartburn symptoms. The esophagus may simply be too scared to feel the pain anymore.

Promising research is under way that suggests a genetic marker may soon be able to tell which Barrett's patients are at highest risk for cancer, and which can relax, Souza adds.

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