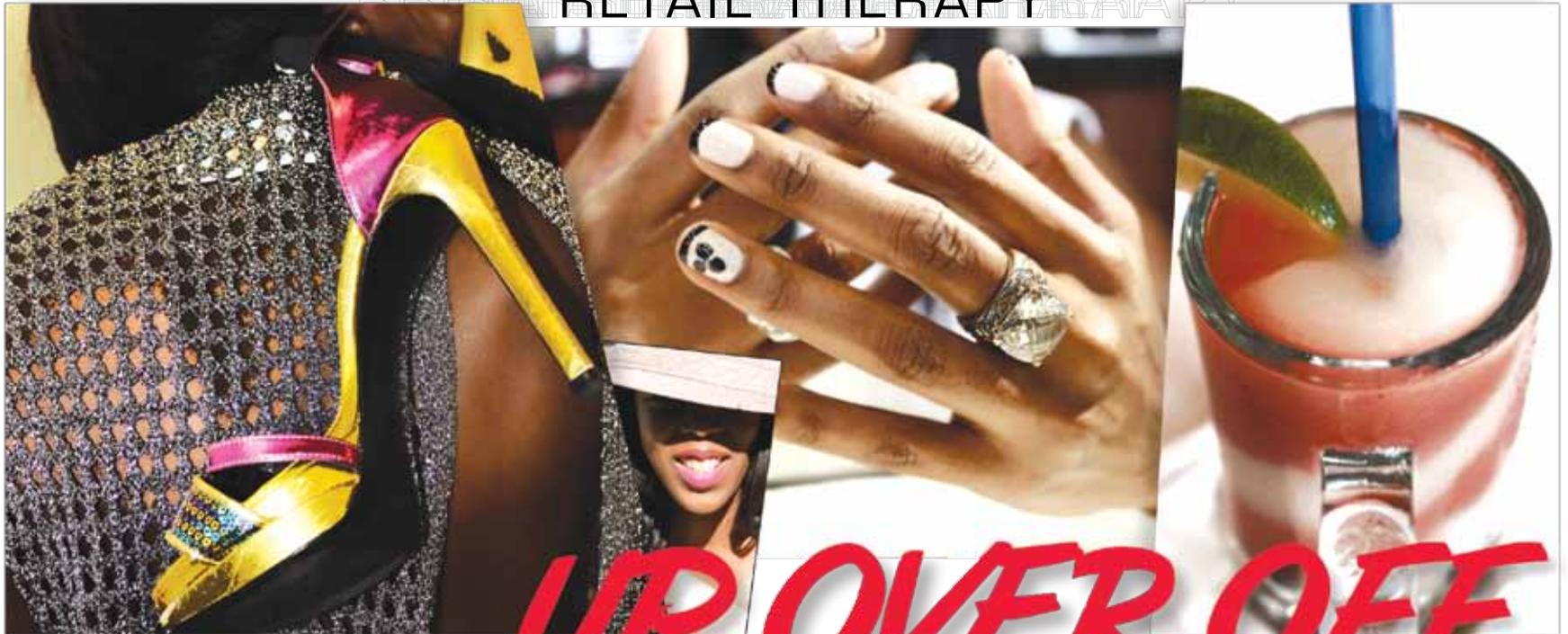


RETAIL THERAPY



BY MARIESSA TERRELL

UP OVER OFF

It's HOT out there. Yet we remain stylishly undaunted. MidCity DC retailers as usual provide an anecdote for even the toughest fashion emergency. This month, we recommend a few novel ways to build a fashion arsenal, white out your worries and remain the coolest one in the room. Simone Butterfly to the rescue.

blue jeans, fashion enthusiasts throughout the world let out a collective squeal. This remarkable photo styled by fashion editor, Carlyne Cerf de Dudzele, signaled the acceptance of a new "high/low" fashion movement. Today, 26 years later, real fashion credibility is earned not just by donning the latest designer ensemble, but by stylishly mashing up designer items with low cost or no cost pieces. Crossroads Trading Company, one of the newest resale clothing stores in MidCity makes it easy and affordable for any fashion leader to build a veri-

STYLE UP

When Michaela Bercu appeared on the cover of American Vogue wearing a \$10,000 bejeweled Christian Lacroix couture pullover and a pair of stone washed Guess

table style arsenal. For the most urbane and surprising high/low fashion combinations, I recommend a strategy of "shopping now and styling later." On a recent visit to Crossroads, I snagged a pair of strappy Nine West iridescent rainbow pumps along with a metallic knit pullover both for less than \$40. By themselves they are marvelous. But, when paired with a pair of Vuitton 2015 Cruise collection high-waisted slightly flaring pink trousers, they are magic. Crossroads Trading Company, 2015 14th St. NW.

TIP OVER

Wearing a bold nail is an easy and affordable way to modernize the most staid of looks. It is not surprising then that beauty leaders like MAC Cosmetics are expanding their nail game to include textured, smoky and even crystal infused lacquers. As shown on the Spring/

ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Metallic Grey Knit Sleeveless Pullover & Iridescent Nine West Strappy Sandals from Crossroads Trading Company.

Inky ModGirl French Tip Manicure at Blu Nail Spa.

Frozen Strawberry Swirl Margarita for Slow Sipping at Lauriol Plaza.

All photos by Kristopher Johnson, restyling by Alexander McSwain, Reachaven.

Summer 2014 runways, there are a number of ways to wear “embellished white,” the hot (non) color of the moment. Kate Spade prefers her models in milky stiletto nails featuring a band of sterling silver and Swarovski crystals. Whereas Charlotte Ronson favors evenly spaced black polka dots over two coats of french tip polish. A self proclaimed #modgirl, I likewise embrace the “white out” going on around me. But still I remain loyal to my fav, the YSL Black Tuxedo polish launched for Holiday 2011. As a result my August nail candy compromise created by Jane at Blue Nail Spa pairs an OPI Alpine White base with a Black Onyx tip for an inky reverse french manicure. With another pair of strip lashes, I could almost be Polly Magool. Blue Nail Spa, 1339 14th Street, NW.

### COOL OFF

Fashion veterans prefer not to simply survive August in DC. Instead we want to “slay” by consistently arriving perfectly coifed despite the heat index. Being the cool spot in the room requires some planning though. Obviously natural fibers help. But frosty libations imbibed just prior to wilting ensures that the 8 a.m. you is till recognizable way past 10 p.m. Whenever you’re hot and in MidCity, consider slow sipping a frozen strawberry swirl margarita: tequila back optional. Lauriol Plaza, 1835 18th St NW.

*Fashion attorney Mariessa Terrell, aka Simone Butterfly, Fashion Investigator, does her sleuthing at [www.simonebutterfly.com](http://www.simonebutterfly.com) and @ SimoneBtrfly. Special thanks to Kristopher Johnson, photographer and Senior Associate Editor, Raine magazine and Alexander McSwain of Reachaven for their assistance. ♦*

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