

Six sizzling looks for hot weather

DRESS

A **BLAZER** looks great over a pretty dress. If you must wear a floral tea dress, don't team it with a cardigan and jelly shoes: your boss will assume you will soon be off on maternity leave. I like this dress (right) by Reiss, Kate Middleton's favoured label. It has a military feel, which means colleagues will do what you say. £159, reissonline.com.



SHOES

IF YOU wear an £800 pair of Louboutins, your boss will think you're paid too much. If you slop around in flip flops or ballet flats, you'll be deemed too casual. If you wear platforms or wedges, it will be assumed you waste far too much time getting from A to B. And espadrilles give the impression you are apt to slope off. A mid-heel is best and a peep-toe is cool for summer. I love these mid-heel peeps, £395 (top right) from *arunah.seth.com*; they have built-in cushions for 12-hour days. Also lovely are these silver kittens by Rupert Sanderson (above), in the Browns sale down from £435 to £215. For those on a budget, nude kitten-heeled courts are very now. Saucy kitten heels, £30 (right), *asos.com*.



SOMETHING FLUORESCENT

THE best outfit I saw at the menswear shows in Paris was an acid green lace skirt on a fellow front-row journalist. You need to have something neon this summer — if nothing else, it will get you noticed. Banana Republic, that friend of the working woman, has some lovely silk T-shirts in hot, fluoro pink, £45 (above).



JACKET

WHAT do I hate in a jacket? Anything pinstripe, anything that is cut too short, big buttons, three-quarter-length sleeves or, worse, short sleeves. An off-white jacket is a must this summer, as is a blazer shape, and a slightly soft, saggy feel. I love H&M's tailored jacket, £29.99, while M&S does a lovely black blazer, £49.50. The best tailoring is by Stella McCartney: her cream and blush pink tuxedo trouser suits (right) are half-price at Browns:



THE BAG

NOT as boring as a briefcase, not as frivolous as an Alexa, a Cambridge Satchel Company bag (above left) is roomy, will last a lifetime and at £130 is inexpensive. Choose one in purple or lime green.

If you feel this bag is a little too young, then a 3.1 Phillip Lim tote is lovely, but business-like, down from £650 to £380 in the Browns sale. Radley is a great choice and will last a lifetime. Radley Aldgate work bag (above right) is down from £120 to £60 in the Browns sale.

SMART PENCIL SKIRT

I COVET this black lace skirt (right): it has shark fins at the hips, so is forgiving, the length is to the knee, and it has a slight give.

It's not too sheer either and would look great with a bright, slippy, cashmere V-neck.

It's in the sale, too. By the way, the NLA (newspapers), CLA (magazines) and Financial Times are not for sale or reproduction/forwarding of the content is permitted except under license from the copyright owner. All FT content is copyright The Financial Times Ltd.