

3 tips to achieve individual style and to look your very best!

Today's top professional salons like ncolor salon, believe that hair shape should compliment and accentuate your face shape and features, but also your lifestyle. In the past many hairstyles became popular, because of the individuals who wore them and everyone would follow fashion and wear that style—whether or not it complimented them personally. Remember Dorothy Hamill, Farah Fawcett, Jennifer Aniston of Friends—these were just a few of the trend setters of their time who were followed by millions of women. Today the focus is on individuality and although we garner inspiration from new styles, today we are not chained to it. As professional hair designers individualization and lifestyle are key—Letting fashion influence style, not dictate. Today we look to the individual to work with the stylist to set the “style stage” by communicating and researching what works best for that individual in three key areas to achieve individual style.

HAIR SHAPE

There are many factors to determining shape; lifestyle, face shape and balance and each area provides information and knowledge to make the correct choice.

Lifestyle: A question your stylist and you should be discussing is “Does this look work into my lifestyle”? If you are an active outdoors person it may be important for you to be able to put your hair up, when golfing, playing tennis, at the gym, or doing yoga?



Or you may have a professional image required in your career. Another major component in selecting a shape that compliments your lifestyle goals. Even if it's a great haircut, if your not able to handle it during activities or at a professional meeting, then more than likely you will be unhappy with the end result.

Face Shape: Most of us have seen articles that talk about face shapes; round, square, triangle and other face shapes. But, hardly anyone truly fits into one face shape category, in fact many faces are a combination. What your stylist should be discussing with you is... “where is your face the narrowest and where do you have increased width in your features?” The goal for your style shape should be focused on your facial assets while minimizing those areas you want to draw attention away from. For example: if you have a wide jaw line, a Bob shape (one length at your chin) would be the least attractive shape for you. The reason: it would



accentuate the width of you facial shape. A better example would be to design a hair shape that falls below the chin and one that allows for some layers to achieve more fullness at the top portion of the hair design thus equalizing the proportions of the face.

Balance: Normally the taller the individual the better the candidate for pulling-off a longer hair style. So, I recommend looking in a full length mirror before considering the length of hair. It is not your age that determines whether your hair looks good long, but proportionally how it compliments your features and your body length.

On many occasions, when clients have come to the salon, we have recommended that they focus on growing their hair out. in many cases it has made them look years younger. It was the same principal we applied to some individuals who preferred to wear their hair long and we suggested a shorter look—a better shape due to proportion. And we have also found that in many cases people who choose to grow their hair out did produce beautiful hair, but it lacks “a style.”





HAIR COLOR

Selecting a hair color can be a daunting task on your own. So, when considering a color it's best to work with a professional who can assist you in selecting one that's



achievable and maintainable—and one that compliments your skin tone for a color match that's right for you.

Expectations: When you select a salon to achieve your hair color goals you are investing in an expectation that the selected salon will leave your

hair in as-good or better condition after that service—a professional salon should exceed those expectations.

Achievable: "Can I become a blonde in one visit at my salon?" To meet that expectation it may be necessary to establish if the color you desire is achievable for you and what is your hair type, current color, and condition. It would be an injustice to you and unprofessional for a salon to select a color, of any kind, that may jeopardize the integrity of the hair quality in the process of achieving a specific hair color. An example would be: if the hair had been a darker color before and now the desire is to go blonde. A service like this cannot be achieved in one session, without injuring the health of the hair, and would not be done by a professional salon. That's why it is critical to have a thorough consultation with a highly trained color technician. They can guide you to "what is achievable and healthy" for the day and how to phase in future appointments to gradually get you to your color goals.

Maintainable: "Is this color maintainable for your expectations?" there are many factors to answer this question. The first, is the hair color appropriate for your lifestyle? For example: if you're the outdoors type, but you choose not to protect your hair with a hat. Then you will have challenges in maintaining your color. Mainly because, as with any artificial color, sun will lighten the color when exposed to UV rays. Or, you may need to recolor more often—depending how often you wash your hair from sports or chlorinated pools. There are many factors and costs associated with maintaining one hair color, over another hair color. Only a professional hair color consultation can assist you in making a color choice that evaluates all these factors when considering a color that works best for your lifestyle.



Skin Tone: This is where I feel the true "hair colorists" are separated from those who simply have a license to "color hair". For example: if you and I have evaluated in a color consultation that brown, blonde or red hues may be a better choice for you, there is an additional level of color that also needs to be evaluated. It is the underlying tone of the color brown, blonde or red that determines the success of the hair color in relation to your skin color. There are literally hundreds of shades of hair color. And it takes a trained eye with advanced levels of training and education to select the underlying color that best compliments your skin coloring for the most natural looking color selections. It's similar to placing 50 shades of red lipsticks of you from which you select two you like. And depending on your skin tone you might have to layer more than one color together. Most people need to have a dominant tone of a warmer, cooler or neutral tone. But many people need to have a COMBINATION of hair color tones. Look at a child's hair color and you will see many shades of hair color. And in most cases, it will take multiple shades to create a natural look—whether it's a conservative or strong look.



HAIRSTYLE

Possibilities! Today more than ever, we are able to have more of the type of hair we desire, than ever before.



The advances in technology and education give us products and knowledge that can correct many of our hairstyle challenges. There are products or services that have the ability to correct so many areas like; greying, dry hair, over processed hair, curly, straight, full, flat, thin, dull and frizzy—

and more. Today you can learn how to easily achieve style with the right products, cut and color—if you're honest with your unique hair type and styling abilities.



So, if you want to change your dark hair to the silky shiny honey and wheat blonde hair of your childhood—the good news is, that in most cases, it is possible! But, a key to your hair style success is seeking out the services of the most qualified salon professional(s) for an investment in you. Professional precision hair cutters, master colorists and technicians will help you achieve your goals, without costly mistakes. And, if the time or the fees required are not in alignment with your circumstances, I implore you to please consider other options to best maintain your healthy hair. Because, what's better than to have hair that you love, your accessory you wear every day. I hope these tips will help you on your journey of having "GREAT HAIR"!

written by Gary Harlan
Master colorist and owner of ncolor salon
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15495 tamiami trail n.
suite #116
naples, florida 34110
239 | 597 | 7005

www.ncolorsalon.com

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