

Lithe wires

Karen Williams and Adriana Urtasun

These UW Studio design sirens have stamped their slick style on such notable interiors as the expansive, interactive U8TV loft and the hip Toronto idyll of Krispy Kreme importer RoLy Morris. Urtasun places interior dressing and body dressing on the same style continuum. "Style is a reflection of how we approach life, and asserts itself all the way from the design of home and office to the choice of key chain." Still, says Williams, pulling off personal style in the middle of a job can present a challenge. "There's always that day when you're called to a site wearing your open-toed shoes and a skirt, and they want you to put on steel-toed work boots and a hard hat."

I would define my style as...

Karen: Simple. **Adriana:** Urban, eclectic, yet practical.

My most memorable clothing item is...

Karen: A pair of red Wellingtons. **Adriana:** My first pair of tan leather clogs in Grade 3.

To dress for work, I...

Karen: Wear what's comfortable and appropriate for the day's schedule: black. **Adriana:** Wear clothes that are comfortable and sleek and move easily from a job site meeting to a client presentation to drinks after work: lots of black.

I can't live without...

Karen: A black turtleneck. **Adriana:** Black sleeveless T-shirts. I get them from Aritzia on Queen Street.

My favourite childhood outfit was...

Karen: Anything borrowed from my older brothers; I wanted to look like a boy. **Adriana:** A denim culotte jumpsuit and my clogs.

I learned about style from...

Karen: Countless fashion magazines; they taught me about the global nature of style. When I began reading them, I realized boys might be interested in me if I didn't look just like them. **Adriana:** My father, who grew up in Buenos Aires. He knew how to pull together a Euro-casual look without even thinking. I remember him with a navy cashmere sweater draped over his shoulders and a crisp shirt with cool, flat-front beige pants. And a pair of black flip-flops or espadrilles.

I deeply regret...

Karen: Perms. **Adriana:** Pentimento jeans—tight, with white piping down the side, worn with Sparks running shoes.

I'll never wear...

Karen: Frills. **Adriana:** Leg warmers.

My luckiest purchase was...

Karen: A vintage chocolate brown pony-skin duster. I only wear it about once every other year, but I love it. **Adriana:** A red leather purse I bought in Calgary.

I'm always on the hunt for...

Karen: Unique evening bags. **Adriana:** Smart, unusual purses and good cowboy hats.

When I'm 90, I expect to be wearing...

Karen: Helmut Lang and silver jewellery. **Adriana:** Long, fitted coats, skinny pants, big hats, mules. Lots of black.

