

Shades of Gray

FALL'S PARED-DOWN COLORS ECHO THE WASHINGTON GENTLEMAN'S PROFESSIONAL, MODERN, WAY OF DRESSING. BY ALEXANDRIA GEISLER

From the relaxed heather suits seen on Canali's runway to the more traditional slate versions at Ermenegildo Zegna, many great menswear options this season come in subdued shades of gray. "The gray suit is clean, crisp, and classic," says District stylist Lauren Rothman, whose first book, *Style Bible: What to Wear to Work* (Bibliomotion; \$22.95), debuts in October. "It is sleek yet understated, which makes it the perfect power color for a conservative town [like DC]." For fall, the image consultant is particularly fond of

Emporio Armani's slate silk checked styles and Gucci's charcoal iterations seen on both the Italian labels' respective runways. "Darker shades [of gray] suit more body shapes and physiques, and they can be worn year-round. Every Washington man should own a charcoal version. It's slimming and it easily moves from day to night," adds Rothman. In terms of cut, she recommends a two-button, single-breasted style in a trim fit. "Men here prefer classics with a modern twist, and a slim-fit style offers a fresh, modern take. You can dress it up for a business meeting, or wear the pants as separates in a more casual office environment. From K Street to the Hill, this look works," she says. Currently, Suit Supply, Alton Lane, and Michael Andrews Bespoke are among her favorite local shops for men's suiting, while she suggests Hugh & Crye and Thomas Pink for superior shirting and accessories. **CF**



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Gray suiting is popular on this season's runways; stylist Lauren Rothman launches her first book in October; John F. Kennedy was known for wearing suits in classic charcoal.



L'enfant buggy-back blazer, Hugh & Crye (\$245).

Suit Up LOCAL MEN'S SHOPS TAKE A CUE FROM THE SEASON'S GRAY-DOMINATED RUNWAYS.

Georgetown-based Hugh & Crye (3212 O St., 202-250-3807; hughandcrye.com) consistently delivers on-trend menswear with a superior fit, with sizing based on body type. For fall, the label's line-up includes single-breasted blazers in slate sharkskin wool and charcoal hopsack wool, as well as a selection of traditional poplin button-downs in light, muted shades. "[Gray] is complementary to many shirt and tie colors and patterns, and it lets you stand out a bit from the masses here in navy suits," adds founder and CEO Pranav Vora. Similarly, French designer Zilli (Tysons Galleria, 703-883-1166; zilli.fr) is debuting exclusive single-breasted suits ranging from pale dove to deep charcoal at its recently opened Virginia outpost.

"Gray transitions easily from the runway to the street simply because it is safe, but [it also] can be sophisticated," says Ron Ecton, store director of Zilli Washington, who adds that the color is able to transcend seasons "based on fabric and accessories." Suits feature modern detailing such as higher armholes, softer shoulders, and flat-front trousers, and come in wool, silk, and cashmere blends.



Inside the new Zilli outpost at Tysons Galleria.