

A woman with blonde hair is sitting on a concrete ledge on a rooftop. She is wearing a black, long-sleeved fur coat with a sequined waistband and a matching fur skirt. She is also wearing black strappy high-heeled sandals. The background shows a city skyline with various buildings and a water tower. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early evening.

Coat, J. Mendel;
available at J.
Mendel boutiques,
1-800-jmendel, www.jmendel.com. Shoes,
Manolo Blahnik, New
York, 212-582-3007.
14K gold and pearl
earrings by SILO for
the Gold Expressions
collection at Fortunoff.

ANDRE

BUSHNELL

Author

About my style: I gravitate toward clothes that are glamorous, showy, and slightly over the top. I wish I were one of those women who can wear a navy blue blazer and a scarf and look fabulous, but it just isn't me.

Style influences: My mother! She had a wonderful and particular sense of style, and growing up in the '60s she used to sew up wonderful creations from patterns. So I probably started reading fashion magazines when I was four years old. My mother had a clever and subtle way of guiding the style of her family without imposing her own.

Hello, Gorgeous: This is really embarrassing. Even as a small child I had great shoes. I'd forgotten about the shoes until

recently, when I ran into a childhood girlfriend. She pointed out that I always had fabulous patent-leather shoes, while her mother made her wear lace-up oxfords—and she was secretly jealous of my shoes.

Why I wear what I wear: I don't have to go to an office, so my clothes tend toward extremes. I have lots of evening and party dresses and lots of jeans and ratty cashmere sweaters. Silk pajamas and furry slippers are also a big staple of my wardrobe. When I went to China, I brought back about twenty pairs of silk pajamas.

What I have learned: Stick to what works. Every time I try to change my style, it simply doesn't work. I think an inherent sense of style is more deeply ingrained than one thinks.