

# Michelle Obama inspires

By CARMEL MELOUNEY

GONE are gladiator sandals and the colours coral and purple — sensible fashion, inspired by Michelle Obama are in.

With the new year comes the latest fashion trends as last year's styles are relegated to the back of the wardrobe. With a global economic crisis tightening everyone's belts, fashion experts worldwide have been quick to promote "investment" pieces and fashion classics like the sleeveless shift dresses and kitten heels favoured by the next US First Lady.

Sydney stylist and director of The Beauty Tutor Sarah Donges agrees the "sensible Michelle Obama" look will be big this year.

"Recessionista chic will appear in the coming year, with women looking for classics instead of throw away fashion," she said.

This involves modifying clothes you already owned, swapping clothes and even renting designer clothes, Donges said.

Conscientious shopping will also increase, as more retailers donate sales proceeds to charities and customers buy more organic skincare and environmentally friendly fabrics.

Donges said this year will see very short dresses, low neck singlets with wide arm holes and wide round necked men's T-shirts.

Donges said we would also see plenty of emerald green for winter.

Australia's Next Top Model style director Jonathan Pease said this year will see the death of the gladiator sandal. "It's gotta be gone," Pease said.

"For guys, the dinner jacket is coming in heavy, and that's worn with jeans, pants and also shorts.

"We'll see couture shorts, not your boardies but expensive, tailored, beautiful shorts."

What trends will you follow in 2009?

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