

SHORE THING: HOW TO STYLE SWIMWEAR FOR THE CITY



When Peter Copping showed a raspberry bikini underneath a matching ruffled sundress as part of Nina Ricci's resort 2013 presentation, one thing became clear: Swimwear is set to free-style on dry land. Other designers floated the idea for that season too: Sonia Rykiel threw a scarlet linen jacket over a nineties sportif one-piece paired with sneakers, Peter Dundas belted and layered Pucci's renditions under military garb, and Karl

Lagerfeld embellished Chanel's luxe lineup with glistening crystals too good for taking a dip. "Women expect to be as chic on the beach as anywhere else," says Michael Kors, whose peplum halterneck maillot could pass for an abbreviated romper. "They also want to go from the beach to lunch without missing a beat!"

While donning water-worthy pieces on vacation makes perfect sense, many women are now drifting the look beyond the ocean's borders, thanks in part to scorching temperatures around the country. "It makes everything feel more sensuous and summery," says Maria Cornejo, who layers graphic, sporty bikinis in neon and prismatic prints under anything from jumpsuits to off-shoulder evening dresses when she's in the city. "It feels modern and urban that way," she says, "I like the idea of showing skin, and not underwear." Lisa Marie Fernandez is of the same mind: "Seeing bra straps looks a little trashy, and swimwear gives you extra security."

This trend of donning waterproof underpinnings arrives in the wake of the scuba-inspired dresses that rippled across the runways last resort. But keeping the fabric in its intended silhouette can simply extend the shelf life of more summery getups. "It gives me the opportunity to wear all of my sheer Duro Olowu dresses after vacation," says Fernandez. But according to Tory Burch, who is known for her chicly attired wanderlust, the trend's biggest appeal comes down to this: "Fit and functionality is essential for swimwear. It's part of fashion now, not just an afterthought."