

STYLE AND THE CITY

BEAUTY REALLY ESSENTIAL

Founder of Thermae Centre for Advanced Aesthetics looks to the core

JANE RAVVIN

It might be inherent for women to want to look and feel beautiful.

When Hannah Arcega founded Thermae Centre for Advanced Aesthetics in 2002, she based her business philosophy on the belief that beauty really is essential.

"Women often need permission to seek beauty," says Arcega. "But it is important to our core. We need to honour our own unique natural appearance."

Arcega's approach to style runs parallel.

"I like it when a woman can look naturally beautiful, simply elegant and effortless (not trying too hard)," says Arcega, "where the brightest part of her look is the glow of her skin, the smile on her face and the light from her eyes. A look that says I feel good in my body.

"I've always admired the easy look of Jennifer Aniston," Arcega continues.

"She has effortless style for both casual and evening (glamour).

"I like combining classics with edgy updated looks and also combining highs and lows (designer and discount)," says Arcega.

"I feel that accessories and fabulous footwear are important even if you're wearing sweats.

"Since it is winter, I've been living in knits (sweaters, tuques and extremely large scarves). I love cashmere knit leggings, pull on sweaters, shearling lined coats with my UGG boots."

Here is more of Hannah Arcega's take on style:

Q How would you define your personal style?

A Classic/timeless but with an edge.

Q What is the most prized pos-



Hannah Arcega wears an outfit by designer Theriault. Hair was done by Skribbles in Kensington. She chose the outfit because it mixed sophisticated with streamlined. She said the outfit works well because it is classic — with an edge. PHOTOS: JIM WELLS/POSTMEDIA

session in your closet?

A I love this Isabel Marant (Parisian designer) beaded skirt because it looks so good and I feel it's timeless. You can dress it up or dress it down. I even wore it to a Stampede function last year and it looked great with cowboy boots.

Q Do you have a favourite designer, brand name or label?

A For business — The Row. Shoes — Prada. Bags — Valentino, Louis Vuitton, Proenza Schouler and Balenciaga. For dressy

occasions — Stella McCartney, Missoni and Jean Paul Gaultier. For outerwear — Burberry. I also gravitate toward Alexander Wang, James Perse and Vince. I like trying new (less known) designers. On a recent trip to New York City I bought a couple of dresses by a designer named Jaeyoon Jeong. Very classic lines — simple but with detail.

Q What is your favourite brand of jeans?

A Right now, I'm digging my Rag



Hannah Arcega's lambskin leather leggings complement these Burberry booties.

& Bone jeans that have a distressed look.

Q Would you say your closet is streamlined?

A It could be better. I have dedicated one room in my house to be a closet/dressing room. It's easy to acquire more space to store clothes but my goal is to keep my wardrobe current and applicable to my lifestyle.

Q How often do you purge your closet?

A Every time I do laundry. At least twice a year (spring and fall).

Q What is your rule when deciding whether to purge something?

A If it has been a couple of years since I remember wearing an item then I know it is no longer going to take up valuable real estate in my closet.

Q What is your greatest extravagance?

A Recently, it would be my "over the knee" Gianvito Rossi suede boots I bought at Bergdorf Goodman in NYC.

Q What coveted item is currently on your must have list?

A I'd like an Alexander McQueen "Classic Skull" clutch.

Q What is your favourite magazine?

A Architectural Digest, Inc. and InStyle.

Q Is there a health or beauty product you can't live without?

A Discovering Vivier Pharma Skincare is the best thing that happened to my skin. It's great for any skin type and has an answer for any skin condition. I totally trust this product line and yes, we carry it at Thermae.

Q Do you have a signature scent?

A Creed Love in White.

Q Who is your hairstylist?

A Hair credit goes to Karley and Dave Costa at Skribbles in Kensington.

Q What are your favourite shops in Calgary?

A I'm digging Nordstrom, Kit and Ace, Ooh La La, Understudy (for menswear), Holt Renfrew and Knickers'n Lace for lingerie and loungewear.

Q Do you shop online?

A Yes absolutely. It's a bit of a habit.

Personal stylist and fashion expert Jane Ravvin profiles Calgarians with fashion flair every month in the Calgary Herald.