

# Find Your Personal Style

Instead of working for a new wardrobe, learn how to make your current wardrobe work for you.

By Kristin Lindsey



Betsy Tabatcher and client Stacey Zahoranski discuss wardrobe options

## Style

If you've ever watched an episode of TLC's "What Not to Wear" and wished to have professional fashion consultants at your disposal, you're in luck. While they may not have the notoriety of Stacy London and Clinton Kelly, Susan Luc and Betsy Tabatcher do have the know-how to revamp your wardrobe and put together fashion-forward outfits for clients from age 13 to 90.



Susan Luc shows Zahoranski how to belt an old jacket to create a new look.

The business is called Shop Your Closet, and Luc and Tabatcher do just that. They provide style consulting and wardrobe planning based on what's already in your closet.

"We really like to start with what you have," Tabatcher says. "We're not in your closet every day, so we see things you wouldn't think of."

From there, they create a shopping list of those must-have items that will complete your looks. Clients can choose to shop solo, or have Luc and Tabatcher along for additional guidance. When the process is complete, each client receives a wardrobe plan that includes a list of outfits and styling tips along with space to mark notes

about specific occasions and events to plan for. For instance, before going on vacation someone might note which outfits she wants to take. There's even a spot to organize and save magazine clippings of eye-catching outfits.

One of the biggest things people need to get away from, Luc says, is the idea that every part of an outfit needs to match. "No more matching," she adds, "it's putting pieces together."

Both women used to work in retail and have experience helping people—especially women—piece together outfits and select flattering items. They also spend a lot of time researching fashion online and in magazines, following the trends.

While many small businesses have struggled lately, in some ways the difficult economy has helped this business. Rather than purchase an entirely new wardrobe, clients are encouraged to utilize what they already have. Plus, the professional advice is affordable, with an in-home closet consultation priced at \$75/hour, and personal shopping at an additional \$25/hour. The average session takes about 2-3 hours (not including shopping time), but the experience varies depending on the client. And you can customize your experience to fit your needs or budget. In the end, a client might spend the same amount as they would for one or two new outfits, but instead they'd have dozens of looks to choose from.

"Really, it's just about planning," Tabatcher explains. 

To learn more about the Shop Your Closet services, contact the ladies and read their blog at [shop-your-closet.com](http://shop-your-closet.com).