

# As seen in the Style Section of the August 13, 2006 edition of THE ATLANTA JOURNAL & CONSTITUTION



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**S**kinny jeans have landed at Wal-Mart, a clear indication that the trend has entered the mainstream. While style-conscious ladies crave the streamlined look — celebrated by such poster girls as Sienna Miller and Kate Moss — the reality is, skinny jeans just aren't made for every body.

"Every season has the top 10 must-haves, and every season not every single person can have all the must-haves," said Atlanta stylist Robanne Schulman, who recommends that shoppers look for clothes based on their body type.

Style asked Schulman to find the dreamiest jeans for women with very different body types: petite, tall, rectangular and pear-shaped. She accentuated the jeans with items from Saks Fifth Avenue.

Kelly O'Hara, 24, of Brookhaven prefers low-rise flares but wants to dabble in the skinny trend. Skinny jeans are "growing on me," she said. "I'll definitely do it for fall."

Sheri Hess, 59, typically buys jeans at Lane Bryant.

"I just run in and grab the size I wear and run out," she said. But Schulman selected a pair of dark, boot-cut jeans that inspired the Lawrenceville resident to shop around.

"I realize I don't have to stick to 'fat lady jeans,'" Hess said.

For Shandrolyn Bell, 46, height has always been an issue.

"I really don't look for jeans anymore. I've given up," said the 6-foot-tall Atlantan. "I can never find anything long enough that fits the hips and the thighs."

But she was thrilled with trouser-cut jeans that hit her natural waistline. The only problem: "They cost too much."

That, said Schulman, is a mere detail. Find the best style for your body, she said, then look for a less expensive alternative. Retailers such as the Gap, New York & Company, Express and Victoria's Secret offer a variety of sizes and styles at prices substantially lower than premium denim jeans, which typically cost around \$150.

If the skinny style isn't for you, take heart, said Schulman. This is just one trend and one season. "Everything," she said, "eventually haunts us again."



## Body type: tall

**Shandrolyn Bell, 46**

**Jeans:** St. John Sport (trouser), \$295 from Neiman Marcus

**Why it works:** Bell needs a trouser cut to get the best fit in the thigh area, Schulman said. She also

recommended investing in a tailor that can alter jeans.

**Verdict:** "They fit great," said Bell, who was pleased that the jeans hit her natural waist. "Anything that creates a muffin top on me, I just don't touch. I put it back."

**Bell** paired her St. John jeans with an Elie Tahari reversible jacket (\$548), Elie Tahari silk shirt (\$278) and BCBG gold shoes (\$179).



## Body type: pear-shaped

**Sheri Hess, 59**

**Jeans:** Ellen Tracy (boot cut), \$198 from Saks Fifth Avenue

**Why it works:** Hess should avoid high-waisted jeans and opt for slimming boot cuts in a dark wash. Schulman also suggested

jeans with larger accents, such as stitching and bigger pockets, to show off curves without magnifying them.

**Verdict:** "I like the straight line; there wasn't anything froufrou that would draw attention to — or from — an area," Hess said.



A Dana Buchman jacket (\$1,148) and shirt (\$200), plus Ralph Lauren shoes (\$450) dress up these Ellen Tracy boot-cut jeans.

## Body type: rectangular

**Kelly O'Hara, 24**

**Jeans:** True Religion (skinny), \$172 from Saks Fifth Avenue

**Why it works:** O'Hara's rectangular shape is perfectly suited for skinny jeans, Schulman said. She

recommended pairing them with boots, belted tunics and blousy tops for fall.

**Verdict:** "At first I was kind of iffy about it because I thought it would make my hips look a little wider," said O'Hara, who is now a believer.

A Theory turtleneck (\$75) and Stuart Weitzman boots (\$161.90) give O'Hara a trendy look in her skinny True Religion jeans, which are on this year's hot list.



## Body type: petite

**Robanne Schulman, 33**

**Jeans:** Seven for All Mankind (skinny), \$143 from Saks Fifth Avenue

**Why it works:** Schulman opted for a below-the-ankle version that makes her 5-foot-3-inch frame appear taller.

For herself **Robanne Schulman** chose Seven for All Mankind jeans, to elongate her small frame.

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