

What inspired you to take up fashion designing as a career?
I've always had a passion for clothes and assembling pieces together. A few years ago, I decided to hold my breath and make a career out of it. Today, I enjoy nothing more than getting to work each and every morning!

What is your greatest professional achievement?
I'm not sure if I've really achieved anything significant as yet. I've been fortunate to have some success with the clothes that I've designed, but I wouldn't go so far as to call any of them a great professional achievement.

What was your greatest challenge?
Easily, motherhood. Every stage in my life as a parent seems challenging and keeps me on high alert. Being responsible for a child forces you to be a perfectionist in so many areas. I feel like I have covered several different fields in the professional world as well; teacher, nutritionist, therapist, mother and, most importantly, a friend.

What is your greatest personal achievement?
It would have to be the decision to start a career in fashion. As a woman, it makes me feel independent, gives me freedom, pride, and a respect which is hard to earn in the environment that we live in these days. People are buying your sense of style when they come to you and that is a pretty strong compliment to receive.

What is your signature style?
I tend to focus a lot on the cut of the top, be it

a simple kaftan or a well-tailored dress. These pieces will always be embellished with a brooch or simple embroidery, keeping the focus on the style and flow of the top/kameez. I don't like the work to over-power the style.

What is your message to the youth of Pakistan?

I think it's time that we all learn a lesson from where we are and how we got here. There needs to be some sort of unity, a willingness to help each other and do what's best for the country as a whole as opposed to just worrying about oneself.

My Life **Ayesha Hashwani**

In what way do you feel you contribute to the Pakistani world of style?
Clothes need to be flexible. One should be able to dress a blouse up or down, depending on the need. I feel my line is one that not only gives you style and quality, but it provides a comfort and sophistication which is essential to a woman feeling good in what she's wearing.

What is your dream?
I think I'm already living it; a wonderfully close knit family, fantastic daughter, loving husband and a career that is more my passion and hobby. I really couldn't ask for more.

You would be the proudest person in the world if...
My daughter graduates with

honours, has an extremely successful business and gives me three wonderful grandchildren.

Relaxation for you is?
A beach holiday, of course followed by a few days in a city to shop.

Your ideal holiday would be...
Great food, lots of sun and a good book to read at a beach resort.

Your artist of choice would be...
Jamil Nakhsh, Abrar.

What is your favourite party dress style?
Drape myself in an elegant dress, play with texture and contrast the sumptuous fabric with glossy patent accessories for head-to-toe chic.

What would you wear to a design label launch?
A long floaty, romantic blouse paired with jeans and some metallic Louboutin heels.

Your most luxurious indulgence is...
An up-sized whopper meal at **Burger King** after having really worked hard at shedding a lot of weight that was needed after a long holiday.

What comes to mind when you hear:
Bling: Solitaires!
Style: Haute Couture.
Cheap: I'll dodge this one.
Tasteless: Arrogance

What message would you like to leave us with?
I think I'll do a **Sandra Bullock** and say "world peace".

