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LIFESTYLE

# Casual style

*Give a fashionable makeover to shorts*

**S**HORTS CAN BE stylish too. Many fashion trends emerge every season and this year shorts are in focus and if co-ordinated smartly with jackets and tops in pretty prints, it can heighten your glamour quotient.

For instance, actresses Chloe Moretz and Millie Mackintosh (pictured) have been spotted recently wearing pastel-hued tailored shorts, but in very different ways, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Moretz has been busy on a promo tour for her new film *If I Stay* and at a day event she was spotted wearing a pretty pair of pink shorts with sandals and a denim shirt. Loose curls and sunglasses completed her summertime style.

Former *Made in Chelsea* star Mackintosh hit the red carpet in peachy coloured shorts, which showed off her gorgeously tanned and toned legs perfectly. She paired hers with a white peplum top and nude heeled sandals for her red carpet look.

Both of these looks are simple but how will you be wearing your tailored shorts? IANS



# Confident beauty

*Jessica Alba: Once tomboy, now womanly*

**JESSICA ALBA, WHO** has recently featured in a sensuous photoshoot for a magazine, says there was a time when she was a tomboy and had to make an extra effort to look "sexy". But now, she is confident about her image.

"I just have an ownership of my body and of myself as a woman that I didn't really have before," Alba told [eonline.com](#).

"I was such a tomboy, and I would always kinda like try and do role-playing to try and do these sexy things, but now I'm very much woman. I

know who I am, I'm confident in my sexuality and now it's not so much of a departure from myself when I have to do photo shoots or play a character," she added.

In a photo spread for *Maxim* magazine, the 33-year-old puts her figure on display in a wet bikini while posing against the rocky hillside of a beach.

Recently, the *Sin City 2: A Dame to Kill For* actress also revealed how age has helped her let go of her inhibitions and made her feel "saucier". IANS

## ALIGN YOUR LIFE

### *The Laughing Buddha*

**E**ver so often I see variety of Laughing Buddhas placed in people's homes. Some of them are colourful while some are simple. The most common belief about this statue is that it attracts wealth and prosperity. The beliefs attached to this statue are many and some are indeed strange. Some believe that rubbing the exposed belly of the statue would help in generating income. While others seem to think that submerging the Laughing Buddha in water will bring opportunities to travel abroad.

Over the years I have heard many stories about the placement of the Laughing Buddha statue. Very often multiple statues are displayed all over the house, especially opposite the main entrance door. It is believed that if the statue is facing the main door, it brings in money. If we go by this logic, then every person who has ever displayed the Laughing Buddha statue by the entrance should be a millionaire!

No one knows where this superstitious belief started and how it caught on in different parts of the world. One reason could be that it seemed an easy way to get rich by simply following the practice. Whatever may be the reason, people still continue to display the Laughing Buddha statue opposite the main door in the hope of winning a lottery.

After doing some considerable research and reading Feng Shui history books, I managed to dig out an old story about the origin of the statue and the belief attached to it.

In 10th century China there was a popular Buddhist monk who was a Zen master. He was a loving and caring monk, who played with children and always carried candy for them. His happy and joyful nature attracted many followers. As time passed, many people started creating statues in his memory. The villagers displayed these statues as a reminder of how happy life could be in spite of adversities and challenges. However this Laughing Buddha is not to be confused with Gautam Buddha who was the founder of Buddhism.

In my opinion, the Laughing Buddha seems to have more cultural significance than any real Feng Shui history attached to it. So does it mean you cannot display a Laughing Buddha by the entrance?

Of course you can. If you feel happy looking at the statue and think it's going to bring you good luck - then go right ahead. If you believe that your life will improve by displaying the statue, then it's the right thing to do. Just remember - the effect is more psychological and it's not a real Feng Shui cure.

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