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OUR BEST FASHION FRIENDS

Meet 20 of the best-dressed BFFs – cousins, “twinsies”, couples (who call themselves buddies), and even a stylish cat that shares a special bond with her equally chic owner. By IAN LEE & EVON CHNG

Audrey Ong, 22, and **Stella Ong, 23,** creative strategy and content developers for www.the15thdistrict.com

So close are they that everyone – from their former schoolmates to their colleagues and clients – calls them “twinsies”. “It doesn’t help that we share the same surname!” says Stella. And yes, during our interview, they giggle spontaneously and finish each other’s sentences the way only BFFs do.

Audrey and Stella even share the same taste in high-street clothes – they love Zara, H&M and Uniqlo. “Although we like to shop alone, we must have more than 10 of the same items!” Stella tells us. Unsurprisingly, their BFF fashion phrase is “I have that too!”

They first met at Temasek Polytechnic six years ago, where they attended the same apparel design and merchandising course and worked on group projects together. “We were the only two who actually did work,” Audrey tells us with a laugh.

Then in 2013, Audrey began working as a stylist and creative strategy developer under local fashion guru and creative director Daniel Boey. Fast-forward to about nine

months ago, there was a vacancy in the team, and Audrey naturally thought of Stella for the position. The rest is history.

Since then, these two friends have been working tirelessly together, through late nights and weekends, producing fashion shows for shopping malls, thinking up print, advertising and digital campaigns for brands, and creating content for five-month-old fashion and lifestyle tips website www.the15thdistrict.com. Even when it’s time for a break, the girls are “attached at the hip” – as Audrey puts it – and go on short holidays together.

“We never ever get sick of each other. Even if we happen to be assigned to different projects, we still help each other out or show up at the event to lend each other support. We’re always there for each other,” says Stella.

Audrey is wearing a Yesah bra top, Nasty Gal top, pants from South Korea, hat from Bangkok and Zara shoes, and is carrying a DKNY bag. Stella is wearing a Forever 21 jacket, a Topshop jumpsuit and Charles & Keith shoes.

PHOTOGRAPHY: TAN WEI TE, ASSISTED BY CHERYL RAHARJO ART DIRECTION: EVON CHNG, ASSISTED BY KARIN TAN HAIR: ANN LIN/ATHENS SALON MAKEUP: AARON NG/DECORUM, USING YVES SAINT LAURENT BEAUTE



Colin Seah, 43, founder of and director of design at Ministry of Design, and **Joy Chan Seah, 37**, director of business development at Ministry of Design

PHOTOGRAPHY: WINSTON CHUANG, ASSISTED BY CHERYL RAHARJO; ART DIRECTION: EVON CHING, ASSISTED BY KARIN TAN; HAIR: ANN LIN/ATHENS SALON; MAKEUP: AARON NG/DECORUM, USING LANCOME

Joy and Colin are married, but she also calls him her “buddy”, and credits him for inspiring her style. She confesses that when they met in 2000, Colin was “the arty guy who loved pottery”, while she was a “jock” and touch rugby fanatic who mostly wore old T-shirts.

Now, she appreciates the quiet sophistication of Maison Margiela and Stella McCartney’s fun, girlie pieces. Not only does Colin help to pick out her clothes, the couple go on yearly trips to Shenzhen, China, to “make all the outfits we’ve ever wanted at a tailor

there”, says Joy, showing us a \$60 pink camouflage-print dress she’d brought along to the interview.

The pair work at architecture and interior design company Ministry of Design, which Colin founded in 2004. Although they got married in 2002, Joy only joined the company in 2007 – they wanted to really build their friendship first, she explains. Colin handles all the creative aspects, while Joy heads business development.

The two also coordinate their outfits unknowingly, and turn up at meetings wearing couple looks. “It’s great for us

to look like a nice package, and be presentable at meetings!” Joy tells us.

While Joy builds her outfits based on the shoes she wants to wear, she says Colin’s dressing is “expressive and extreme”. “If he’s not wearing loud and graphic pieces, he’ll be in something really simple. Once, he turned up at a big meeting with CEOs and shareholders wearing lime-green pants!” she says.

Colin is wearing a suit he designed himself, a Zara tee and Y-3 shoes. Joy is wearing a top designed by Colin, Topshop leggings and Melissa shoes.