Style Smarts

BY KATHY WITT | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KERRY PITTENGER

Fall ushers in up-to-the-minute designs for the contemporary biz whiz working in a modern environment. Whether in a home or corporate office, on the road or in the air, these bags, briefs and totes bring smart styling and structure and savvy organization to the table.

NUMINOUS LONDON | Meet the SMART City Backpack 901, an executive backpack designed for today’s modern business traveler, with a multi-pocket section for work files and documents and a secure padded laptop or tablet compartment. Luxuriously designed and with a high exterior finish, this bag also features a biometric lock (fingerprint recognition) and a built-in charger to keep your devices powered on the go. This backpack also includes innovative anti-slash fabric layers, puncture-resistant zips and TSA-accepted locks, making it highly secure, to say nothing of stylish. Powered by a Joey SMART device charger, it comes in black. MSRP $341

TRAVELON® | Find plenty of storage space in the Anti-Theft Urban Slim Briefcase from Travelon: roomy main compartment with padded and fleece-lined laptop compartment; front zippered organizer compartment with padded, fleece-lined tablet pocket; front drop pocket for smartphone; front zippered pocket; two rear pockets; and a mesh expansion pocket for your water bottle. This bag also has RFID-blocking passport and card slots, zippered wall pocket, pen loop and tethered key clip with LED light. Slide it over the handle of your wheeled luggage with its add-a-bag feature or carry it by its adjustable padded shoulder strap or comfy neoprene-wrapped top grab handle. MSRP $90

GENIUS PACK | Intelligent design in a lightweight 21” Hardside Spinner: this case offers interior organizational compartments, an out-of-the-way laundry compartment, an integrated packing checklist for think-free packing and four durable silent gliding spinner wheels. All this in a case that meets international and domestic carry-on allowances and weighs just 6.2 lbs. MSRP $99.99

Photographed at Serendipity Labs. Your work environment has the potential to activate your highest levels of productivity and creativity. Serendipity Labs provides the motivational buzz of a coffee shop and the focused solitude of a library all under one roof. Work alongside entrepreneurs, start up teams, consultants, writers and a number of professionals from various fields. Meet with your colleagues and friends to make your best ideas come to life. Host workshops and conferences. Boost your network by making connections through our networking events. See for yourself at www.serendipitylabs.com.
PIEL LEATHER | The elegant Deluxe Vertical Briefcase (12.25 x 15 x 3.25) features a magnetic snap opening to a spacious main compartment with a full leather organizer, zippered pocket and padded laptop compartment. Handmade in Mexico, it is made of luxurious full-grain cowhide leather that is soft and smooth to the touch and has both a top carrying handle and an adjustable shoulder strap. It is available in black and chocolate brown. MSRP $342.99

HEX | In typical HEX fashion, the Ashford Laptop Duffel packs a lot of features into its slim and modern design. With an outer shell constructed of water-resistant charcoal waxed canvas, the case has padded and fleece-lined device compartments, including a front exterior phone pocket and interior laptop and tablet storage. Complementing this is a roomy central main compartment, interior organizer and two rear exterior snap pockets, plus surplus-grade web handles and a removable shoulder strap with multiple carrying options. MSRP $99.95

ROYCE LEATHER | Boasting a spacious interior with a padded 15” laptop compartment, a tablet slip pocket and an accessories pocket, plus two zippered external pockets, the Powered Up Exec Backpack in black is built to withstand the test of the executive commute and your exhilarating journeys. Water-resistant flannel-esque fabric is juxtaposed against rich pebbled leather that coalesces into its contemporary charm. A subtly situated dual-port power bank charger keeps your electronics charged up on the road and the lithium ion polymer charging station has an impressive capacity of 6500mAh. MSRP $350
TRAVELERS CLUB | Sleek with a slim silhouette, the kensie 17” Rolling Briefcase with Spinner Wheels is made of polycarbonate and ABS and shines in pale gold, rose gold and silver. Features include a push button trolley handle, stylish top handle and spinner wheels that allow complete upright mobility for free-weight rolling that relieves pressure from your arms. With a fully lined interior, the case has a section dedicated to clothing for overnight use, plus a padded laptop compartment and a variety of multi-use organizer and zippered accessory pockets. MSRP $165

DELSSEY | The MONTMARTRE+ Ladies’ Tote celebrates French sophistication with smart features, including an exterior with two side pockets for a water bottle, magazine or umbrella and a zippered pocket for last-minute items, plus faux-leather accents for a classic look. Inside the bag, a padded sleeve holds up to a 15.6” laptop and a business organizer keeps all necessities easily accessible. The smart band on the back of the bag slides over the trolley tubes of larger rolling luggage to simplify traveling with multiple bags. MSRP $89.99

ALFA TRAVELGEAR | Make travels smooth and easy with the Rolling 14” Laptop Travel Tote (16” x 19” x 9”) from Rollies. Eco- and checkpoint-friendly, this expandable tote features a tablet and laptop compartment, exterior pocket and two interior pockets. Weighing just 5 lbs, it has a super lightweight retractable handle bar, two custom-designed Rollies wheels, protective feet and padded top handles. It is available in various prints, including kitten (shown). MSRP $69.99

LUGGAGE AMERICA | The Deluxe Fashion Rolling Overnighter speaks to women business travelers with its spacious main compartment for maximum packing capacity, heavily padded laptop compartment and elegantly imprinted full interior lining. Stow business and travel essentials in the accessible front zipper and side closure pockets and roll smoothly along with the bag’s recessed metal ball bearing wheels. Constructed of durable ripstop polyester, it comes in tulip, blue paisley and zebra, and new purple paisley prints. MSRP $160
MCKLEIN COMPANY | Like its namesake, The Chicago makes a bold, dynamic statement. This 17” Leather Detachable-Wheeled Laptop Overnight with Removable Brief not only has ample storage space for everything needed for overnight stays, its interior compartments keep files and important documents well-ordered and accessible. Partnered with the included laptop brief, this bag was made for working professionals and can stand up to any amount of travel. Additionally, McKlein’s patented 2-in-1 Detachable Wheel and Handle System allows the business case to be completely and conveniently removed from the frame. Convert your rolling bag to a shoulder bag and head to your meeting in style. MSRP $255

MANCINI LEATHER GOODS | From the Manhattan2 Collection is the RFID Secure Unisex Tote, a fusion of contemporary design and practicality ideal for the urban lifestyle. Handcrafted in fine top grain leather, this tote has a zippered compartment with separate tablet and laptop padded sleeves to keep devices secure and protected. A zippered front pocket with RFID wave blocking technology keeps data and cards safe and a plethora of practical pockets maintain organization for business essentials. An attach-a-bag strap lets you piggyback the tote on other baggage. MSRP $274.99

BRIC’S USA | This Executive Backpack made from elegant Saffiano leather with coordinating herringbone trim has built-in cable management; protected/padded pockets for laptop, tablet and phone; and ergonomic back padding with a handle slide feature that allows you to slide it on the back of your trolley. MSRP $625
BARRACUDA | The next innovation in luggage is here: The Barracuda Carry-On is the world’s first collapsible carry-on. Blending art and science with a stylish, patent-pending design that includes a circular handle system, this rugged hardside transforms to a collapsed folded case instantly – one that can be slipped neatly under a bed or hung in a closet. Its ergonomically designed Venus Handle System™ swivels to keep your hands and wrists from cramping. An included USB charger lets travelers power up their smartphone and other electronics on the go. Catch up on emails with the carry-on’s built-in tray that unfolds from the handle to safely hold your laptop, and keep track of your Barracuda with Location Tracking & Proximity Sensing technology. The bag comes in a wide array of colors, including red, gold, black, blue, gray and pink. MSRP $349

EAGLE CREEK | Get all-day carryability and style with the Straight Up Business Brief RFID that offers three carry options with its padded tuck-away backpack straps, removable adjustable cross-body shoulder strap and padded grab handles. Featuring a checkpoint-friendly laptop compartment plus tablet sleeve with a butterfly-style opening, this brief is loaded with Eagle Creek’s All Ways Secure™ components, including 2-way lockable zippers with Secure-Zip™, Central Lock Point, toggle closure on main compartments, passport-size RFID Blocker pocket and Digital Safe-Zone. All this, plus smart organization, air-cooling perforated foam backpack straps and more. MSRP $130

FOX LUGGAGE | Here is a lightweight, rolling Polycarbonate Business Case (BF29) with a padded laptop compartment that fits a 15” laptop. Feature-rich, the case has a front quick-access zippered compartment; large middle compartment for files, catalogs and magazines; three internal organizational pockets; a zippered mesh compartment to safely store your most sensitive documents; ergonomic and comfortable padded top grip handles; and a push-button, self-locking internally stored retractable handle system. With silent dual wheel casters on four sides for easy mobility and turns, the case fits in most overhead bins. MSRP $250

HONTUS MILANO GROUP | Fusing art and science together to create a new level of experience in travel goods is the Esotico 21” Carry-On from Mia Toro Italy. This hardside spinner is made from lightweight armor-flex composite with Mia Toro’s exclusive and scratch-resistant Raw Carbon Fiber Texture. Esotico also features an innovative tri-compartment opening system and has a front pocket with two padded sleeves that fit up to a 15.6” laptop computer and mobile device or tablet. MSRP $340/21” carry-on
BOCONI BAGS & LEATHER | Crafted of retro-inspired and texture-rich Buttero leather, the Becker City Pack is meticulously hand-cut, sanded, stained and stitched with gingham-accented linings and trimmed with authentic brass hardware. With both padded laptop sleeve and elastic tablet sleeve, the bag has a multitude of organizing compartments including a security RFID Protected pocket, plus adjustable leather and nylon shoulder straps. Its top carry handle and slim profile lend this backpack a professional look perfect for the office. The backpack straps make it easy to carry everything you need with you on your commute and travels. It is available in black and whiskey. MSRP $468

KORCHMAR | Upgrade your backpack with the HOUSTON, an eye-catcher in vegetable-tanned cowhide with a wax finish and natural leather interior. Organization is thoughtfully arranged with a hanging small interior gusset that makes for a split interior, a built-in iPad sleeve and two expandable front pockets that hold variously sized electronic essentials: PDAs, cell phones, computer power systems. Offered in cognac and mocha, this backpack also has adjustable shoulder straps. MSRP $450

CANYON OUTBACK LEATHER | Turn heads with the Kannah Canyon Backpack, soft and supple in full grain pull-up buffalo hide and boasting a two-way top zipper and perfectly placed front zippered pockets. A sturdy carry handle and foam padded straps for heavy load comfort complete the package. With its nylon lining, quality YKK zippers, padded laptop sleeve and straps that are adjustable from 19" to 34", this backpack is ideal for both getaways and the daily commute. MSRP $178
LODIS | Combining versatility and verve is the Audrey Quince 3-in-1 Convertible Backpack (0.25” x 14” x 5.50”), featuring one strap that easily converts to a cross-body bag or lets you carry it as a satchel. Keep your essentials secure with a top-zip closure, interior zip pocket and two slide pockets. A detachable, adjustable shoulder strap can be used for a backpack and shoulder strap. MSRP $292

HEYS LUGGAGE | The Mode Executive Business Case is Heys’ answer to the question of how to carry your tech, business and overnight travel essentials in one bag while stylishly standing out in a sea of black, masculine-style exec cases. A chic “handbag on wheels,” this lightweight carry-on is designed with lots of organized storage. It can be opened using the front zipper to access business essentials and media or via the center zipper to access personal and travel essentials. This case is constructed of polycarbonate composite and is offered in black, Marsala and color-blocked black/bone (shown). It also features a croco/leather look and stylish touches like a faux lock and key. MSRP $169.99

CABRELLI GROUP | Striking in a two-tone color palette of black/white and navy/red, this carry-on-size Rollerbrief (716035U) in pebble PVC with silver hardware offers a large front pocket for stowing items you need to be accessible, plus two side pockets. Inside, find a removable padded 15” laptop and tablet compartment, interior organizer section, attached key leash with clip and a new second top-zip compartment. Other features: inline wheels, retractable handle and matching ID tag. MSRP $200
IT LUGGAGE | Constructed of water-resistant and easy-to-wipe-clean durable material, the lightweight Rio ROLL-it Carry-on offers an easy-access waterproof side pocket for shoes and an organizer section in the front panel pocket. Stow your electronics in the bag’s 13.3” laptop compartment and iPad section. It’s a versatile and stylish carry-on designed for modern business and leisure travel with a comfortable, ergonomically-shaped handle. Its smooth and silent corner wheels give the Rio stability and the best possible glide. Shown in Poseidon color, it also comes in black and purple magic. MSRP $180

LUG | With a roomy main compartment, organized storage for paperwork, pens and electronic accessories, plus a separate padded zip compartment to cradle your computer, the lightweight Echo Backpack is a confident companion on travels and to work or school. Its convenient soft-lined corner zip pocket means no more scrambling for that buzzing smartphone and its easy-wipe bottom helps keep it clean. Available in aqua teal, heather gray, lavender purple and midnight black, the bag is specially treated with a water-repellent finish. MSRP $99.99

ZERO HALLIBURTON | Ideal for the young, urban professional is the ZERO NEW YORK – Midtown Collection’s 3-Way Business Brief. Constructed using several different ripstop nylon, including CORDURA®, this brief features three different ways to carry the case: by the top handle; by the adjustable shoulder strap; or by using the backpack straps that are incorporated inside the back panel. Its cavernous main section includes a padded computer pocket and an organization panel. The back compartment has a large zippered pocket and two organization pockets. Available in blue (shown), black, khaki and – the newest color introduction – wine. MSRP $195

KENNETH COLE | Pack down with the expandable R-TECH Computer Backpack with RFID Blocking Technology in the bag’s front compartment pockets. With both padded laptop and tablet pockets, a front face zippered and lined stash pocket and small compartment with organizer, ultra padded air mesh back with air flow channels and padded ergonomic shoulder straps, this bag is built for rugged travels. Its sturdy 1680D polyester construction with fully lined interior and steel cable handle reinforced with heavy duty rubber grip complete the package. MSRP $240

Please see the Buyer’s Guide on page 63 for a directory of the companies whose products are included in this feature.