

Fed up having to cram your bits into tight, rigid underwear in order to fit into your clothes? Here's a range of designer clothing with built-in shape-wear that does the job more comfortably and stylishly, writes **Niamh Kelly**

# Shape up in style



Shapewear dress €149



Wrap dress €169



Navy blue dress €139



Burgundy ruched Tina skirt €100

**I** DON'T know about you but I find that no matter what body shape or dress size a woman is, shape-wear is always a comfortable and confident option. It promotes your curves and makes you feel glamorous. It is designed to simply smooth your figure and hold in certain parts of your body in a healthy way. Today I'm featuring Connemara fashion entrepreneur Patricia O'Toole who recently launched the 'Beautiful You' line of classic slimming clothing with built-in shape-wear designed to enhance a woman's natural body shape and be worn with love. The idea is to liberate women from having to squeeze into uncomfortable undergarments to fit into clothes that were not designed with them in mind. The brand's secret is the comfortable built-in shape-wear in each garment to conceal a less-than-perfect tummy, create smooth lines and a slimmer silhouette. The classic outfits are further enhanced by luxurious fabrics that feel great and look fabulous. Taking inspiration from Diane Von Furstenberg, the timeless wrap dress is popular, particularly among those with a large chest as it's the most flattering style to wear. The added long-sleeve detailing and midi-length skirt makes it the perfect go to piece for all occasions. Available in a variety of colours, the dress also has a full tunic underneath which gives complete coverage. The wrap crosses from the right side to left, and can be tied snugly or loosely as preferred with a ruched

design that will conceal any problems areas around your stomach. The built-in shape-wear offers comfortably slimming support that falls from the bust line to the knee, ensuring a smooth silhouette. O'Toole's inaugural collection features six classic dresses, two tops, a ruched skirt and palazzo pants in a variety of this season's colours – from classic black to burnt orange – all fashioned to take a busy working woman from day to night, from casual chic to the most formal of occasions. She very kindly sent me the burgundy ruched Tina skirt and black Breda top which I was delighted with. The skirt fits like a glove and makes my curves feel amazing. I'll definitely be wearing this piece during SS15 – it's a huge trend setter. The colour is fabulous and will make styling it a dream. Always a firm favourite no matter the season, Palazzo pants are elegant and great for flattering your leg length. With the flare detailing along the ankle, it gives off the illusion of a longer leg. It boasts built-in boxer-short shape wear to help smooth out your hip and leg area. Great for dinner parties; wear with a simple black top or add print or colour for a stronger look. I'd suggest wearing a pointed shoe – they work beautifully with this style of trouser. With such a flare, your shoes can tend to get lost so a point helps to balance out your look.

■ Beautiful You is available online at [www.patriciaotoole.ie](http://www.patriciaotoole.ie).



Wrap around top €59



Black Palazzo trousers €120;  
black Breda top €49

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