



The secret to: becoming a socialite

Karen Ng, stylist,
socialite and friend
of David, shares her
wisdom.

1 It is important to have a mentor. David Gan is my mentor. He's my Ah Bu — very special people call him Ah Bu. I got to know the Ah Jies and all these MediaCorp people because of him. If you want to get to know a particular person you fancy or idolise, you have to look at yourself and ask if you 'match' that person. If you make an effort to look good and present an outstanding image, you will intrigue that person, giving you an opportunity to strike up a conversation.

2 First impressions are crucial. If you screw up by not dressing well — too bad. Perhaps you don't belong to that elite group. You must also improve your conversation skills. I've taken presentation classes and How-to-make-an-impact classes at SIM! It is that easy, dear!

3 Be friendly. I'm a sociable, friendly person and that's a nature you must possess in order to easily blend into the social scene. You cannot be too reserved or too mindful of what people think. You've got to tell yourself, "I'm all out to make friends, socialise and expand my network."

4 It's important to be yourself when you mingle in the social scene. If a materialistic woman has an ulterior motive on a wealthy guy, he will feel it. Likewise, if a guy wants to gratify himself, the woman will feel it, too. We have instincts. A girl doesn't have to go out of her way to find a rich man — she can just change her job. Go into the hotel industry where there are more chances of meeting wealthy guests. It's about being smart, going with the flow.



5 It was not at all hard to break into the social scene here. The London and Europe scene was much harder. People there were so arrogant, so snooty — they really look at you from head to toe, and they really were a pain!

6 There are people who snub me out of jealousy or because of their inferiority complex. Maybe their boyfriends made a pass at me and they saw it. I've seen a girl literally cup her mouth and talk to another person in front of me! Be more classy lah! I just smile, walk away and think, "She's a loser because she's so bad-mannered. But I'm a winner because I'm a nice person". I believe in being positive in any situation.

Expert credentials:

Studied at First Impressions, a leading image consultancy in London for nine months, and attended similar private courses. She is also a certified aesthetician.

Lived in Hongkong for 13 years till last year, running a beauty salon, a floral and personal gift service and also a freelance image consultancy.

Returned to Singapore last year to set up Glitz by Karen. Is now a 'power stylist' charging \$300 an hour for her services. Karen is 35 this year and describes herself as "young, free and single".