

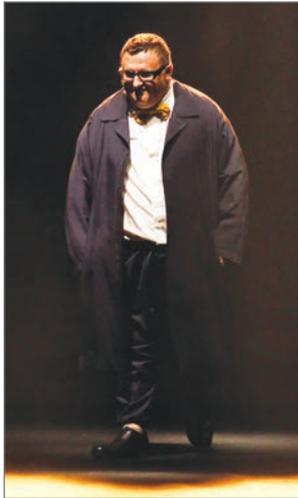
THE FASHION GROUP FOUNDATION PRESENTS

RTW COLLECTIONS

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

TREND OVERVIEW BY MARYLOU LUTHER

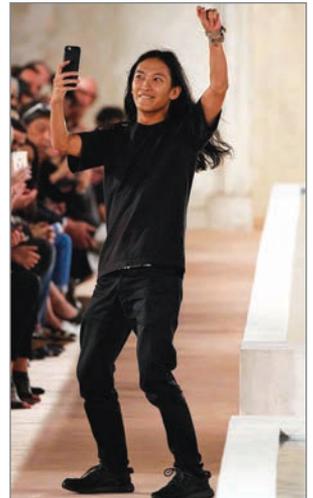
NEW YORK • LONDON • MILAN • PARIS



ALBER ELBAZ



RAF SIMONS



ALEXANDER WANG

More fashion insiders probably talked more about what was happening beyond the runway this season than whether women would really wear bras in public.

The topic: Raf Simons' departure from Dior, Alexander Wang's goodbye to Balenciaga and—pre-runway—Donna Karan's closing of her namesake collection and—post-runway, Alber Elbaz' exit from Lanvin. The talk: Are these designer-quits manifestations of too many collections, too many personal appearances, too little time for creativity, too much brand-building? And is this designer malaise the reason so many collections lacked originality?

Or: Have the show sets and staging become more creative than the clothes?

Is this a season of reality or banality?

Is the new default setting Safe?

Can calm clothes quiet the digital explosions of our stormy times?

Have accessories become more important than the clothes?

These are questions facing the fashion world as it translates the runway into reality. Or, in the case of Chanel, the runway into—the runway.

Fashion pays attention to details. Livestreaming: Strings and streamers dance off clothes. Dresses and tops with one-bare-shoulder: A tribute to Donna Karan. Pockets patch things up. Ruffles resonate. Feathers float. Bows tie things up. Fringes live on. Frays and raw edges express the unfinished look of the moment. Pleats are in the fashion fold—again.

The new comfort zone. Ease-y does it. Relax. Breathe out. Squeezy looks cheesy. Salacious is now capacious. (Note the new caftans.)

Athleisure. From gym to ballroom, from no-sweat sweaters to jumpsuits that land on the dance floor, sportswear is in a defining—a redefining—moment.

Layering. It used to be coat, jacket, sweater, twin cardigan and maybe a T-shirt. It's now sheer dress, bra, jacket and shorts. Or a see-through jumpsuit over undies. Or coat, hoodie, skirt, lace slip and shoe-tights.



MICHAEL KORS



VERA WANG



TOMMY HILFIGER



SAINT LAURENT



RALPH LAUREN



HUSSEIN CHALAYAN

Color. More designers opened their collections with white than any other color. Black-and- white is still a fashion read. Black is the new black. Not orange. Blush, cloud, parchment, nude, rose quartz. These are the pre-pastels of spring. Hints of tints join the pale. Happy face yellow is a hue to smile for. Green gets a go—and an eco. Blue notes are back in fashion's sheet music. Navy is the comeback color of the season. Royal purple takes a seat on the fashion throne. And many, many designers see red ahead.

Stripes. They're everywhere. Horizontals, verticals, diagonals and mixes thereof.

Prints and Patterns. The logo is a go. So are clothes that talk and make faces. From the tiniest petals to garlands and artful bouquets, florals are print perennials. Camouflage is an expression of militaria. Animal markings figure in. Plaids and dots are noteworthy. Landscapes make the scene. Art is abstracted. Pop Art pops back. Drawings, scribbles and doodles figure in.

Cotton is king again. Poplins and broadcloths, menswear shirtings and seersuckers are major, even for evening. Pre-washed fabrics change wash and wear to wash before you wear. Denim goes viral in finishes and applications never before seen.

Get ready for *fil coupe*, French for cut thread. These little floating wefts embodied in the fabric's warp give new dimensions to fabric in a kind of 3D effect. You could call it the new unfinishing touch.

Lace, velvet, satin and charmeuse, matelassé and brocade are favored evening fabrics, some harkening to courtly, others to courtesan.

Knits taking a ribbing—and crocheting and macramé-ing. Designers also get hooked on openworks and networks.

Leather Goods. The biker/motorcycle jacket/moto made famous by Elvis and Marlon, is re-cycled. Bombers now come in python. And calf leather makes the scene in skirts, pants, jumpsuits and dresses.

The coat. You want a simple, minimalist coat? Check. A wrap and tie? Check. A trench? Check. A cape? Check. A sleeveless coat? Check.

The jacket. The blazer is back, now with decoration, including punk pins. Big brother/big daddy blazers are big. And arms-free blazers look...sleeveless.

The skirt. From mini to knee-hovering and thigh-baring to calf-length to ankle-bound, any length goes. Star here the tie-on skirt, once the disco uniform of The '70s, now an "apron"—and more. The skirted suit retains its status—and quiet elegance.

The pant, etc. Just as any length goes in skirts, any width goes in pants. Overalls make a comeback in many new iterations. And jumpsuits are barely traceable to their origins in planes or mechanic workshops.

It got pilloried by Hillary, but the pantsuit stays in the picture—with and without sleeves. Pinstripes are part of the new pantsuit lineup and so are decorated and brocaded versions.



RAG & BONE



MARTIN GRANT



LANVIN



DEREK LAM



CHLOÉ



GIVENCHY

The shirt/the shirtdress. Tuck it in or let it hang out, the shirt is the top top. (Blouses are next.) The shirtdress is also a tale of the season in all fabrics and all price levels.

The boudoir. Lingerie leaves the bedroom for a wider public. In the not-so-intimate-apparel scenario, list bras, camisoles, slips, dressing gowns, negligees, pajamas and *robes de chambre*.

The slip-dress and the LBD. Once an unmentionable, the slip-dress draws rave reviews in its post-boudoir outing. The little black dress is big. Again. In many new incantations.

Evening. Fashion eases into evening with a sweated evening skirt as the new cocktail dress. After-5 shorts and pants also dress up for night. Born-again full skirts from The '50s look fresh. And once-upon-a-time dresses from other cultures, other times cast a spell for romanticism.

Le Smoking is smoking. The tuxedo is, arguably, one of the first male garments to be appropriated by women. Yves Saint Laurent's *le smoking* of 1966 set fire to a lot of copies then and a lot of inspirations now. Pleat-front tuxedo shirts score all by themselves, and the tailcoat is part of the formalwear redux. So are tuxedo dresses and jumpsuits.

Décor and more. What once might have been classified as sequins are now glittery pennies and bottle caps. Beadwork becomes artwork in many designs. Studs, grommets and nailheads are part of the topical décor and 3D flowerettes become fundamental ornamentals.

Once positioned as supporting actors in the theater of fashion, **accessories are now the keys that unlock the money vaults for big brands and big retailers.**

So what's in the bag for **handbags?** Branding via logos, monograms, corporate names. Handbags' Hands-free bags. Money belts. Backpacks. Color. Python. Match-ups: The bag matches the coat, the suit, the dress, the pants.

Footwear: Sneakers stay on. Fashion is high on flats. Educated oxfords look sole-ful. Chunky platforms rise up. High heels get ankle ties. Shoes get socks. Booties get re-booted. So do over-the-knee boots. Rubber boots wade in. Snakeskin still has bite.

Jewelry: Earrings dangle to the shoulders, hence the name shoulder dusters. A lot of hoopla for hoops—big ones. Bracelets resin-ate. Jewels hit the wrist. Chokers caress the throat. Necklaces get layered, piled on. Tiaras are the new headbands.

Belts make classics look new. Neckerchiefs are the newest scarfs. Hats brim over. Straw gets voted in. Sunglasses go from shields to aviators, round to square.

Ones to Watch. Especially at this time of designer exits and entrances, the industry seems more interested than ever in the next big...designer. Here are some worthy ones to watch.

From New York: Laura Kim and Fernando Garcia of Monse. Greg Lauren.

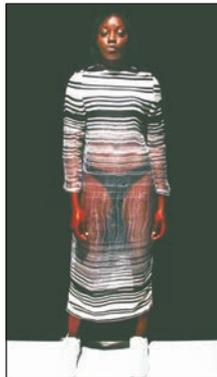
From London: Claire Barrow, Faustine Steinmetz.

From Milan: Alisa Shalali Deizy of Daizy Shely. Arthur Arbesser of Iceberg.

From Paris: Guillaume Michel of Iris Cantabri. Christelle Kocher of Koché.



GREG LAUREN



FAUSTINE STEINMETZ



ICEBERG



KOCHÉ

Hair and Makeup. You could call it the new Me Generation. Individualism. Selfies. Naturalisms. Hair, raw and real. Or styled and saloned. Crew Cuts. Ponytails, Braids. Comb-over and strung-out bangs. Wet and wild. Dry and tame. Color.

Lip service: A siren-call to red. A rush to gold. The eyes have it, shadowed, sometimes lined, sometimes lashing out.



CHANEL



OSCAR DE LA RENTA



BALENCIAGA

BEST BETS:

At Ease • Athleisure • The Boudoir • Stripes • Leather

Fabrics: Poplin • Denim • Knits •

The Shirt • The Shirdress • Pantsuits • Overalls • The Tuxedo

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