

THE FASHION GROUP FOUNDATION PRESENTS

RTW COLLECTIONS SPRING/SUMMER 2014

TREND OVERVIEW BY MARYLOU LUTHER

NEW YORK • LONDON • MILAN • PARIS



LOUIS VUITTON



GIVENCHY

The key word for spring/summer 2014 is assimilation. This new amalgamation is fashion's response to a global movement, a kind of why-can't-we-all-just-get-along mood of inclusion. The fashion cast ranges from step dancers to flower girls and latter-day hippies, with some tribal warriors, Greek and Roman goddesses and a few surfers and skaters in the mix. Rick Owens' step dancers set new standards not just for their amazing bring-down-the-house showmanship but for Owens' commitment to bring to life "the collective spirit and bonding, plus the spirit of competition that has us all band into tribes to compete—in friendly ways and vicious ways."

By integrating ethnic and folkloric costumes into a modern context instead of copying them verbatim, designers have come up with some imaginative examples of adaptation. Noteworthy here are the assimilative looks by Ricardo Tisci of Givenchy, Marc Jacobs for Louis Vuitton, Donna Karan, Tia Cibani and Valentino.

SAMPLING. The other major example of the new fusion involves sampling the past to get to the present. Examples: Ralph Lauren's '60s renovations, Hedi Slimane's '70s updates for Saint Laurent Paris, Alber Elbaz' reconfigurations of the broad-shouldered '80s, and Jil Sander's re-dos of '90s minimalism.

THE WHITE SHIRT. If there is one item that works with almost any look, tribal to floral, it's the white shirt. It's apparent, and even transparent, in collections ranging from Karan and Michael Kors to Giovanna Randall of Honor, Anthony Vaccarello, Akris, Nonoo and Olivier Theyskens for Theyskens Theory. The white shirtdress, a major contributor to the Little White Dress explosion, shares the runway with other shapes, as in a shift from Ralph Rucci to sheaths at Raf Simons for Dior, Douglas Hannant and Rachel Zoe.

BE A SPORT. Be a GOOD sport. That's the word from the fashion arena. Bombers land on new runways, exceptionally at Tom Ford, Jonathan Saunders, Erdem Moralioglu of Erdem and Marco Zanini of Rochas. The moto keeps its mojo at Lauren and Vuitton. And the hoodie leaves



DONNA KARAN



RALPH PUCCI



JONATHAN SAUNDERS



RAG & BONE

the 'hood for the gym—and beyond. Extraordinary examples are at VPL by Victoria Bartlett, Kenneth Cole and Jean Paul Gaultier. Already a staple with joggers and beyond, sweats make news with pearls on pearls at Don O'Neill for Theia and embroidered chiffon decor at Jason Wu and Dior. Among the other winning sport looks are mesh and netting fabrics, tennis sweaters, track pants, athletic jackets and boxer shorts.



DRIES VAN NOTEN



ALEXANDER WANG



DIOR

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT. Once considered the fashion garden for little girls, flowers are now blooming and booming “everywhere”—from leaf to petal. Those by Christopher Kane, Prabal Gurung, Laura Biagiotti and Dries Van Noten are especially worth cultivating.

The logo re-asserts itself, branding clothes at Alexander Wang, Vuitton, Undercover and Missoni. Or: It's okay to wear someone else's initials again.

Garment-printed looks are ground breaking at Proenza Schouler. Cryptic word art is a good read at Dior, Alexander Wang, Kenzo and Libertine. And it's now possible to face the future with face prints. The template: Miuccia Prada's wearable portraits. Making faces was also big at Giles, where Kate Moss can be your new bosom buddy, at Antonio Marras, whose off-the-wall Cubistic drawings give wearable art a new look and at The Blonds, where Phillippe and David Blond's Tweety Bird tweets a message of animated animus.

THE PANT. Pantlegs range from narrow to medium to pleated to full. Yeohlee gives the palazzo new currency in a white paper cotton seersucker version that looks believable even for those who don't live in palaces. High-waisted pants are on the rise, looking directional at Kors in a slouchy version with a Katharine Hepburn sensibility.

The Bermuda is part of the new pant triangle for spring, which includes culottes and Capris. Tommy Hilfiger and Marc Jacobs take Bermudas to new territory and Yeohlee's “knee-guard shorts” are at once sporty and stylish. The culottes at Proenza Schouler and Tibi, the kneecap-tivating looks at Beckham, Theyskens Theory, J. Crew, Diane von Furstenberg and Saunders and the cropped pants at Sander, Rag & Bone and Emporio Armani are all major players in the new leg show. Overalls turn up over here—Rag & Bone—and over there, Olivier Rousteing for Balmain. Jumpsuits and onesies are part of the plot, the short is the new mini and that '70s favorite, the pantsuit, is once again believable as a fashion player.



ALTUZARRA

THE SKIRT. No one skirt length has been voted off the trend list, but calf-length to just-above-the-ankle lengths make major impressions with many designers, especially Joseph Altuzarra of Altuzarra. The skirts at Lyn Devon and Dior, both ending just below the knees, are remarkable pleat feats.

THE JACKET/THE COAT. Sleeveless jackets star, both bare-armed and with under layers. The sculpted blazer and the big daddy blazer (forget the boyfriend) bring new acclaim to the old favorite. And some of the new Chanel jackets bare a shoulder.

The big coat news is in color, white, and prints, especially florals and graphics, with a nod to trench updates and a smile to Jason Wu's corset-backed raincoats.

EVENING SEPARATES. Fashion's new separatists split up evening into unexpected coalitions. The major players include leather jackets with cocktail dresses and tea-length chiffon skirts; sweaters and sweatshirts with transparent dresses; satin T-shirts with tuxedo pants and evening gowns over blue jeans (credit Marc Jacobs with that combo in his standing-ovationed swan song at Louis Vuitton). Our picks as best bets here are Altuzarra's Henley shirt with a gold lamé skirt and Haider Ackermann's elongated blazer with transparent (from the thighs down) pants.

LEATHER. Yes, leather for spring, as in Chanel's paper-thin leather pants and 3.1 Phillip Lim's second-generation bombers and cracked metallic suede sleeveless shirts. In addition to the numerous bombers, there are leather dresses with floral inlays, colorful crocodiles, patent leathers, gold leathers and perforated leathers. Python has the biggest bite.



JEAN PAUL GAULTIER



MICHAEL KORS



CHANEL



HAIDER ACKERMANN

FABRICS. Cotton is king again, with the most noteworthy fabrications at Kors, where double-face cotton poplins give new bounce to the ounce; and the stretch cottons at Derek Lam, the photo-printed denims at Chanel, the chintz manifestations at Yeohlee and the beaded denims at Wunderkind.

Neoprene looks totally new in Peter Som's wave-printed sweatshirts and Don O'Neill's kimono-printed sweatshirt for Theia.

Satin leaves its evening-only station to shine during the day. Among the most memorable are Misha Nonoo's satin kneetop skirts and Rachel Zoe's satin pantsuit. Metallics also gleam during daylight, and beads and crystals sparkle day and night. Among all the hand embroideries that proliferate for spring, star Theia's wave gown, Maria Grazia Chiuri and Pierpaolo Piccioli's folkloric creations for Valentino, the horticultured tulips at Van Noten and the field flowers at Tory Burch.

Appliques and intarsias are also key to re-defining textile technics for spring.

COLOR. More designers opened their spring collections with white than any other color—or non-color. Next: White-and-black, the 2014 version of black-and-white. Next: The foundation shades—nude to creamy beige and tawny. Next: Pink, from pale to shocking. Next: Jordan almond colors—blue, yellow and orange included. And at the end of this season's rainbow: Electric brights.

ACCESSORIES. White is right, both in bags and shoes, with the backpack looking like the comeback of the season and the mid-high mule – or pump or sandal – the big contender, especially the ones with chunky heels. Sport sandals are game in many collections with scuba/surf shoes making waves. Heels look fresh in sculptured renditions, and wood looks like a medium worth watching.

From a tassel to groups of tassels, fringe is the handbag's new BFF. Sports bags score, especially the duffle, and two bags on one body or two bags-in-one bag look like important double-ups. The twinning continues with matching shoes and bags and matching clothes and bags.

Bracelets, bangles and beads soar on. Tribal necklaces are part of the big, chest-ful of jewels trend, chokers abound and pearls mother the neck, ears, wrist and fingers.



MARIOS SCHWAB



CELINE



CHANEL



ALEXANDER WANG

HAIR & MAKEUP. Enter the face of the off-duty model. She looks makeup free and un-tended but she's been careful to look carefree. The natural look then emerges with a hit of color at eyes or lips. Then more definition appears in statement brows and graphic eyes effected with black liner. And for evening galas, gold streaks both the hair and the eyes. The wet look surfaces—behind the ears—in Paul Hanlon's saturated damp-down for Lim. Eyeliners also catch a wave at Kenzo, where Aaron de Mey draws one on with MAC's white acrylic "paint".

The ponytail lowers for spring, tied near the neck with string, ribbon, leather and metal. And the updo gets updated with polished looks as well as tousles and textures. The season's beauty book closes with wigs. The big bang is celebrated at Fendi and the choppy, DIY-looking bowl cut wigs-out at Marc Jacobs.

BEST BETS:

The White Shirt • The Little White Dress • Pleats • Pants: The High-Rise, The Bermuda
Sport: The Bomber, The Tennis Sweater • The Sleeveless Jacket
Prints: Flowers, Words • Evening Separates • Leather • Satin for Day • White
Accessories: The Backpack, The Mule • The Mid Heel/ The Sport Sandal

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