

RUNWAY REVIEW  
SPRING 2009

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# Dear Reader,

It may be called spring, but this year runways weren't filled with floral dresses, animal prints, and bright colors. Two factors had an overtly apparent impact on designer's creative minds this season - the crumbling economy and effects of global warming.

2008 was a rough year. I am sure I don't need to remind you of the ongoing, always worsening economic crisis. Between the mortgage crisis, the credit crunch, the nearly 10% unemployment rate in the United States, and market failures in almost every country, almost everyone is squeezing their wallet a little tighter. So what are fashion designers supposed to do in times of economic crisis? Exactly what they did this spring - go back to the basics and create pieces that shoppers can keep for years. The spring runways were toned down, restrained, and designers focused less on taking risks and more on creating staple pieces every woman should own. In times where almost everyone is less likely to spend an extra buck, let alone hundreds of extra dollars on extravagant, wear-it-once pieces, designers when back to the closet must-haves like blazers and white t-shirts. Aside from a couple of risk takers, most designers played it safe and sent simple, well-constructed pieces down the runway.

In addition to the economic meltdown, global warming showed its ever-worsening effects this past summer/fall. In many parts of the world that normally experience sun-filled, 80 degree summers, instead designers experienced endless months of cloud-covered, 60 degree days. Here in Seattle, I can attest to the fact that our summer wasn't a summer. In fact, I think temperatures reached above 75 degrees a total of three times. Normally designers are creating the spring lines during warmer weather but this spring, many designers noted the dreary weather as a subconscious factor in their choice of colors. And that is why in the pages the follow you will see more neutral colors - black, brown, white, and grey.

My intent is not to bum you out. In fact, now is a great time to buy clothes. The economy and the weather may not be a good thing, but there are some positive fashion benefits. This spring designers have created staple pieces that are worth spending the money on. Designers like Donna Karan and Giorgio Armani designed some beautiful blazers, ones to wear for seasons to come. Derek Lam and Versace created simple, beautiful dresses that can be worn through-out the years to various parties and social events. All you have to do is dress them up or dress them down.

My advice to you is to find two or three pieces you not only need but love and go for it. This spring you can make some serious investments in your wardrobe that are guaranteed to pay of for many years to come.

Best wishes in the coming year,

*S. Lucier*



# season staples

the must have, trendiest trends, and "you oh so need to get this" of spring 2009





# attractive ankles

Show a little skin this spring and I am not talking about a mini dress. Instead show your ankles, that's right - your ankles. It doesn't matter if you are wearing skinny jeans, slacks, or harlem pants - just make sure they stop short and show some skin.



# basic blazers

One of this seasons best buys is the blazer. A classic and chic style staple that you can wear with just about anything. Splurge a little and buy the best because you will be wearing this cover-up often.



# one sided

This spring asymmetrical styles makes a return with beautiful bows, twisted ties, and ornate one-sided draping. Just make sure to alternate the shoulder you're showing or you may end up with a one-sided tan line.

1. Lanvin 2. Marc Jacobs 3. Alexander McQueen 4. Rodarte 5. Herve Leger  
6. Derek Lam 7. Versace 8. Giorgio Armani 9. Monique Lhuillier 10. Emilio Pucci



# tough girls

It may be spring but it's no time for pastel colors and floral printed dresses. This spring it's all about motorcycle jackets, black skinny pants, and leather dresses. But don't forget to add some extra attitude to your outfit. You can't pull off this look without some serious confidence.



# the return of the white t

White t-shirts and jeans are a staple of American style, but this spring feel free to wear your white t-shirt everywhere. This easy, effortless item is perhaps the least expensive thing to buy all season and probably the most comfortable.







# grey is the new black

Normally spring means khaki colors and safari prints. But this season designers kept things simple with solid shades of grey. The easy to wear color can be dressed up or down, worn day or night, and if we are lucky we might just see more of this color on the fall 09 runways.



1. Giorgio Armani 2. Donna Karan 3. Chanel 4. Alberta Ferretti 5. Christopher Kane  
6. Celine 7. Jill Stuart 8. Missoni 9. Oscar de la Renta 10. Peter Som



# rainbow sherbert

We may have wore jewel tones this fall but for spring we need to invest in some brighter colors. Spring colors come is funky, eye-popping shades that bring to mind childhood memories of cotton candy, orange sorbet, and rainbow sno-cones.

# accessories

sexy shoes, hot hats, and all the little things that matter most



# hats



1. Emanuel Ungaro 2. Sonia Rykiel 3. Hermes 4. Wunderkind 5. Gucci

# shoes



1. Lanvin 2. Givenchy 3. Stella McCartney 4. Chanel 5. Louis Vuitton

# bags



1. Bottega Veneta 2. Chloe 3. Prada 4. Christian Lacroix 5. Yves Saint Laurent



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