

Fashion Trends for Womenswear Autumn-Winter 2006/07

Autumn Winter 06/07 sees a return to dressing up. The look is clean and grown-up with less ethnic, retro and multi-layering influence. There is new emphasis on 1950's tailoring with defined silhouettes that emphasise the waist. Pencil skirts and dresses, menswear jackets and wide-cut trousers surmise the look. We also see reference taken from uniforms and workwear which continue the theme of utility and androgyny. Patterns are prevalent, and form the major focus of some collections, combining traditional and natural with newer technical fabrics.

FABRICS

- Tweed appears as you've never seen it before, updated and over printed with over stitching and embroidery
- Velvet in all its guises from rich coloured to high sheen velours
- Knitwear has a country craft feel which mixes traditional and exaggerated stitching to make it look handmade
- Metal fabrics are used for day as well as eveningwear in a range of silver and gold hues

COLOURS

- Dark encompassing tailoring demands dark anthracite greys, blacks and browns, or austere combinations with white
- Black remains the season's darling but in flannel, and velvet takes on a two-tone shine
- Winter blues are seen in various hues, adoring denim, rich crushed velvet and wool flannels
- Browns, reds, oranges and purples are combined in woollens to give a rich Autumn flavour
- Blonde beiges and neutral hues are worn tonally, as are soft winter pastels in pink and lilac
- Ornamental tones provide a rich feast of jewelled colours for evening wear in ruby, turquoise, petrol, purple, amethyst, midnight blue, and ebony black

KEY THEMES

Retro Folk

Folklore and Eastern European uniforms collide to create this diverse look. Think Babushka dolls and military detailing. Patterned peasant skirts worn with military jackets, and crochet lace with Scandinavian knitwear.

Metro Uniform

Taking influence from the officers' mess, not ground combat, we see jaunty pea jackets and military frock coats worn with cropped trousers and knee-length boots, all adorned in decorative frogging (*U.K.* **braid fastenings**: ornamental braid fastenings on the front of a jacket) and braid trims.

Masculine Spirit

Women dressing as men in deconstructed tailoring with alluring peeping flesh. Key influencers are Bianca Jagger, Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich. The shrunken jacket, waistcoats, tuxedo jackets, blouses, city shorts and tailored pencil-fit trousers.

Historical

Victoriana and theatrical fairytales turn this dark romantic theme into a fictitious version of history. Key garments have a vintage feel and include ruching effects, chiffon and lace. Knickerbockers, tunics, capes, leg of mutton sleeves and boudoir-inspired outerwear.

Starlet

Hollywood's golden age provides inspiration for this retro-glamour theme. Sophisticated evening wear emphasises glamorous form-fitting styling. 1920's cocktail dresses in brocade, worn with fur wraps and anything heavily beaded and embroidered epitomise this look.