

Summer 2008 Trend Roundup

Are you feeling a little out of the loop for spring and summer style 2008? A great number of fashion trends emerged from the runways around the world and are now in the stores. Let's begin by looking at the inspirations for the trends and then the break it down further into fabrications, prints, colors, accessory styles and clothing that made the final cut. This is your cheat sheet to fashion fabulosity!

The inspirations for the designers this season are fun and wearable. First off we have the military influenced looks that are styled with great details like epaulets and cargo pockets. Next up would be the early 80s Punk influence, with skinny jeans, graphic prints, mod minis and ankle boots. Most wearable are the feminine Vintage looks with touches such as ruffles and the romance of the past. Lastly, we must mention the ever popular safari look with lots of linen and khaki. Keep in mind that these are broad themes and even just an element from one of them can do wonders for your wardrobe!



Fabrications

When it comes to fabrications we're really talking about details that make a design stand out. When it comes to dresses we're seeing a plethora of ruffles being used at the hem or framing the décolletage, whether halter style or cap sleeve. The use of cutouts in the cloth itself has also been prevalent, usually done on fine cotton day wear as a peek a boo accent. The types of fabrics we're seeing this year include the standbys linen and cotton, but also tons of chiffon and satin. Look closely and you'll see the use of bows everywhere as well.



Prints

The overwhelming return to prints this season is fantastic! We have seen it all. Bold black and white geometric patterns, invigorated floral fabrics, abstract motifs and mod 60s pop art graphic looks, to name a few, really stood out.

Color

The color palettes for spring and summer are both subdued and bold. Ensembles are anchored in beige, khaki and white as a base to build style upon. Brighter tones like lime green, turquoise, lavender, melon and all shades of yellow, red, orange and grape can then steal the show. When these colors are worn alone as a statement piece like a sheath dress, the effect is clean and modern. Of course, our old friends black, navy and cream are here too, to add detail, or are seen in sheer fabrics to keep the light feeling in dresses and blouses.



Accessories

I have a few words to say about accessories and that is "must haves for summer". The clutch bag has returned as the comeback kid. Done in patent leather, straw or fabric it is the bag to carry! Other style leaders this summer are gladiator sandals, patent leather anything, peep toe wedgies, 80s booties and ankle strap high heels. Belting is in—on everything from cotton dresses to trench coats. Narrow belts were in evident in almost every collection and are an easy update to make to your personal style.



Clothing

The clothing looks that dominated the runway include the following: vintage cut shorts, straight below knee skirts, shirt dresses, one-shoulder dresses, shift dresses, belted dresses, boat-neck tops and dresses, collarless jackets, deep V necks on tops and jackets, sleeveless jackets, cropped jackets, full skirts in all lengths, jumpsuits, wide collared blouses and slightly flared pants. I guess the word here is variety. There is literally a style that can suit every body!

This has to be one of the most wearable spring and summer seasons yet! So get out there and celebrate the start of our brief encounter with warm weather style by getting some for yourself at your Goodwill Store & Donation Center.

