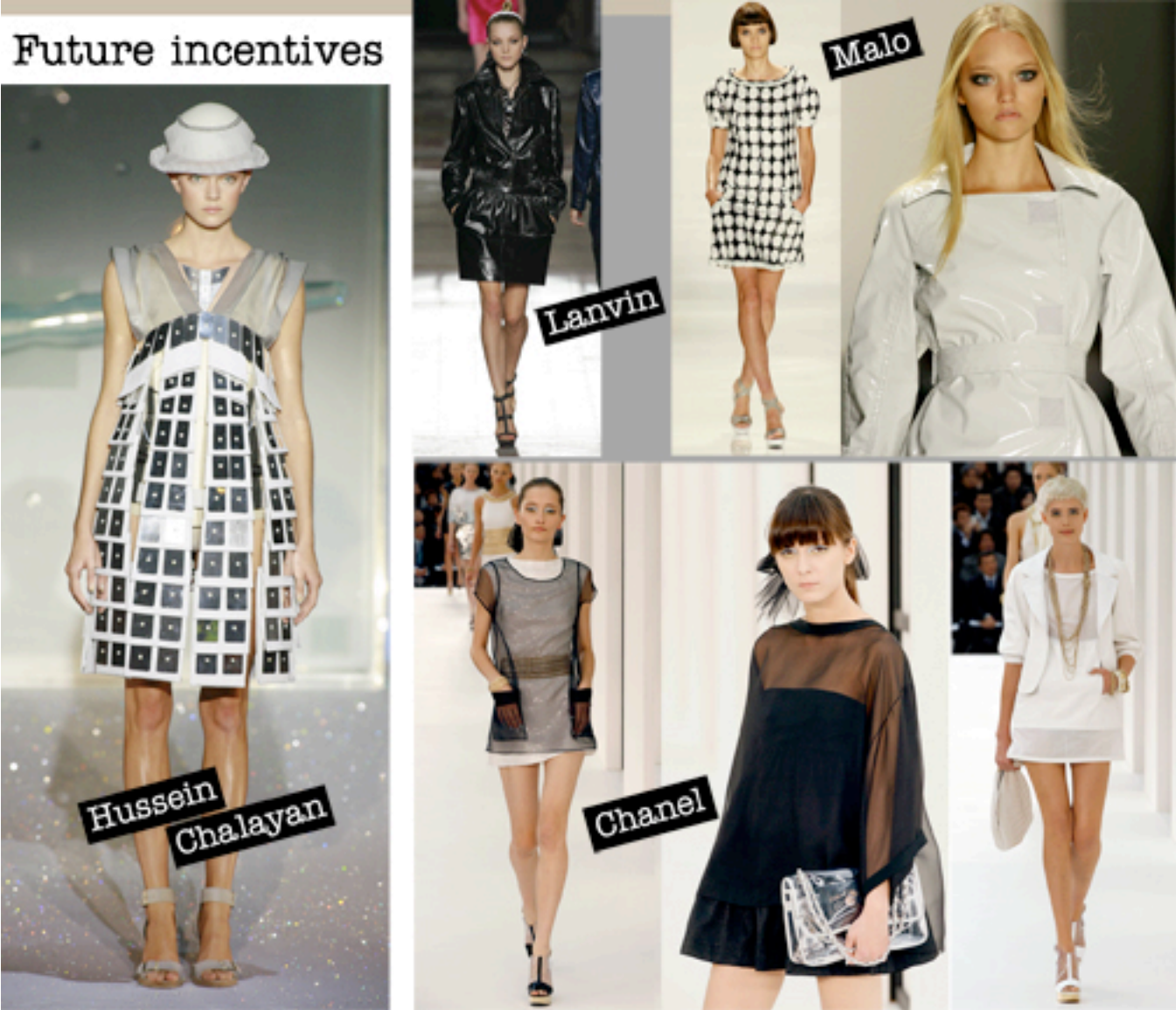


The Fashion Icon Report

SHOPPING IN AMERICA
SPRING TRENDS 2007

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Hussein Chalayan made his point clear with an over-the-top collection of reflective A-line dresses and spring fashion followed. This time the trend reaches beyond a 1960's redux and marries ultramodern with the everyday. Clear plastic accessories are stepping back into the realm of high style with the influx of aggressively futuristic design. Surprisingly versatile – put them to good use spicing up a traditional spring shift – and accent further with a saucy Vidal Sassoon bob. For those who want to just dip a toe into the transparent trend, a see-through clutch or a liquid silver belt will grant you access. Mod nouveau touches needn't be plastique – a structured sheer sheath or tunic makes a tempered trend-savvy layering piece over spring solids. Topped with a high-gloss slicker, the future is yours!



A ROYAL FLUSH

The primary color in the spring design room is an exuberant shade of cobalt. Not for shrinking violets, we're talking bold swaths of saturated, look-at-me, mood-lifting pigment. Ways to freshen up include 3.1 Phillip Lim's flirty, lustrous belted tunic and DKNY's floor-sweeping sundress in lapis lazuli. With ample '80s influence in the mix, you'll be ready for the dance party in no time: A silky car coat in electric blue or a vivid sapphire jacket are both perfect over a sexy black satin sheath. The best way to showcase the cool hue? Pick one show-stopping piece and build your look around it with low-key accessories. Go for black, deepest indigo, or a pale neutral tone. The final essentials are shimmering skin (*read: moisturize!*) and plenty of confidence. From there on, it's blue skies.



OPPOSITES ATTRACT

The harmonious balance between light and dark elements is an ancient Chinese secret. It's also the ultimate no-brainer path to chic: Black and white simply bring out the best in each other. The dynamic duo also has the perfect chemistry to create instantly covetable graphic patterns and prints: Color-free abstract florals, pop art tapestries and op art stripes are all the essence of sophistication. Tips for high contrast dressing: Sticking to *just* the two hues lends a breezy elegance to the entire ensemble. Play it up with a sleek, unfussy coif and strong, defined eyes. And to finish it all off, choose stark, almost exaggerated trappings: An oversized handbag with visible zippers or chunky platform sandals. Bring it all together and you'll have a one-two punch: Maximum impact.

LICENSE TO FRILL

T'is the season for romantic flights of fashion fancy, but how does a modern gal who doesn't tiptoe through daisies daily wear the look on the urban landscape? Avoid frill overkill and turn the inspiration into an outfit that works. Keep volume and adornment in proportion and you too can pull off floral embellishments and diaphanous ruffles. For Louis Vuitton, Marc Jacobs layered skirts of tulle and crinoline with a beribboned chiffon coat *and* put flowers in the model's hair. Reality check? Try the beguiling skirt, with its riotous textures, but pair it with a streamlined top, or restrain the palette to keep it from getting too cutesy, like Jacobs did for his namesake line. Designer Zac Posen toughened up his billowing poet's blouse by pairing it with sharp, long and lean man-tailored trousers proving that with the right balance, there's room for romance in *everyone's* wardrobe.



BRAND NEW BEAT

The staple fabric formerly known as “conservative and safe” reappeared this season with reinvention worthy of Madonna’s last tour. Could this really be khaki? From Sonia Rykiel's metal-tinged fabric to Stella McCartney's light bubbly coatsdresses – the safari mainstay is packed and ready for a spring adventure. To throw us off the usual trail, Michael Kors used a khaki color in a body skimming knit and threw sumptuous sandy-toned sweaters on shoulders for an easy to emulate casual luxury. Kick your khaki up another notch with metallic accessories treated as neutrals. Enjoy.



Un-drab fab at Michael Kors (L) and Stella McCartney (R trio)

Runway Notebook



A gamine
cropped 'do
at Chanel



Ready to
shop at
Louis Vuitton

Nubby silk
layering at
John Varvatos



IN THE PINK

If forecasts ring true, 2007 is slated as the year the rosy hue prevails for the fashion forward fellow. Opportunity abounds for adding the happy tone into wardrobes and homes as Glidden's masculine, new *Movie Star*™ shade makes its decorative debut. "It's a dark pink tinged with elements of gray that give it remarkable versatility and strong character", says Barbara Richardson, director of color marketing for ICI Paints. "A chic, contemporary shade that speaks to everyone – even men." On that note, pink is not for the head-to-toe ensemble – but used in select dashes to liven up a spring repertoire: A shirt, a sweater vest layer, or a patterned tie. Awesome with pale grays, defiant with navy and bold with everyday khakis – pink doubles as an effortless pick-me-up for a post-winter complexion.

Shades of masculinity

Brooks Brothers

Banana Republic

Gap's fitted polo stripes

Glidden's star shade (above) and Colour Futures 2007 trend book.

2007 COLOUR FUTURES
PINK

ICI Paints

As always, visit our Zoom Look Book for the full photo gallery guide to seasonal dressing straight from the runways – and stay tuned for Prom Guide 2007 – coming soon!

Fashion dilemmas you can't solve on your own? Or just need help shopping? Get some sound, solid style advice at the Fashion Icon Hotline.