



COLOUR TRENDING

Pleated perfection

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Peruse any street-style picture gallery from the past year, and you will inevitably spot a pleated midi skirt. The style shot to fashion-blog fame when Alessandro Michele featured a gold lamé pleated midi in his debut for Gucci, and it has remained a style-staple. Despite the prevalence of similar skirts being stocked in many high-street label collections, pleats continue to make an appearance in couture collections, with several designers utilising the design to inject a touch of jaunty movement into their Spring/Summer 2017 collections. But don't break out the high-school kilt just yet, the new pleats are delicate and subtle, with a ladylike elegance perfect for an effortless summer aesthetic.

This season, Elie Saab embraced 70's disco-fever on a glitter-encrusted runway. The palette was mainly monochromatic, with splashes of metallic gold and silver, and splashes of turquoise and peach. The floaty fabrics, combined with all-over sequins and low cut necklines, gave the collection a Studio 54 vibe.

"My woman likes to be happy and beautiful. The style is simple, but it is all about movement," said Saab.

This collection was a departure from Saab's usual ethereal ball-gowns and featured bright, all-over prints with stars. Saab featured permanent pleating on the skirts of several of his evening gowns. One of the most refined gowns in the collection was a soft, metallic peach hue. The metallic fabric, similar in colour to Resene Guggenheim, caught the light and the delicately angled pleats reflected a luminous glow. The effect was a luxurious evening gown with a

weightless elegance and subtle movement.

Chloé presented an Anglo-inspired collection, with subtle nods to England's nautical heritage. The palette was refined, featuring muted blues, yellows, browns, and monochromatic tones. The collection featured floaty, loose-fitting garments which exuded easy summer elegance. Drawstring waists, tied with slim twine, and the use of rope as shoulder straps hinted towards a maritime inspiration. As the show progressed, there were unexpected floral prints, presented in the form of off the shoulder dresses, and wide-leg pants. Permanent pleats were used in maxi and mini dresses; including some using colour-blocking patterns. The floaty shape combined with the modern palette, included blocks of colour similar to Resene Blue Moon, and created a fresh, female-friendly aesthetic.

Presenting his collection 'Make Do and Mend', Christopher Kane took us back to the United Kingdom during the post-war era. Inspired by his own childhood, as well as World War II refugees, Kane featured an eclectic mix of glamour and functionality. The contrasting elements included embellished crocs, patent leather handbags, rivets, metallic pleats, religious iconography, and large floral prints. Kane presented a few pleated pieces, which were in metallic grey or a metallic blue similar to Resene Azure and accented with black mesh.

Victoria Beckham's eponymous collection continued to go from strength to strength, this season presenting a softly whimsical collection entitled 'Velvet Underground'. Beckham's take on the trending

pleated midi skirt felt fresh, perhaps due to the tooth-paste inspired hue. Close to Resene Aqua, the vibrant skirt exuded understated sophistication, and velvet pleats have a volume and weight which made it a definite statement skirt. Beckham's collection was created around velvet, "It's about taking the fabrics and making them feel new and fresh."

Giambattista Valli channelled languid summer luxury in his Spring/Summer 2017 collection, which was brimming with floaty, floral fabrics and peeks of delicate black lace. Based on the writing of Simone de Beauvoir, Valli explored femininity and presented it with a vintage-inspired touch. A sheer, pleated, maxi skirt, in a colour close to Resene Blue Chalk, matched with a barely-there smocked strapless crop top. The set was layered over a black, lace-trimmed bodysuit, giving an ethereal, yet modern look.

Alessandro Michele's maximalist approach to fashion is a well-established concept, as 'Magic Lanterns' for Gucci's SS17 was a continuation of his previous collections for the iconic brand. Filled with historic references, and embellished pieces, Michele continued crafting the unique aesthetic which has single-handedly torn fashion from its love affair with minimalism. 'Magic Lanterns' combined bourgeois twinsets, 80's-inspired voluminous maxi dresses and chinoiserie-patterned gowns. Eye-catching pleats were used as ruffle-style accents on a matching pant and shirt set in a vibrant, metallic pink; similar to Resene Cabaret, giving the pants a mermaid-like look, while the shirt is an original interpretation of the current ruffle trend. Michele's colourful, created

world continues to enrapture maximalists, and provide the perfect statement pieces for street-style stars.

The collection title, 'Bird of Paradise on Acid', perfectly encapsulated the aesthetic created by Haider Ackermann in his Spring Summer 17 collection. Ackermann presented a crisp palette of blacks and whites, accented with vivid, tropical hues which easily united to evoke a fresh, summer look. Experiments in tailoring and volume were evident in the relaxed cut of a classic tuxedo, and several intriguing sleeves; which had a distinctly rounded shape. Ackermann included a nod to the on-trend permanently pleated skirt in his collection, but with a fresh twist. Pairing sheer fabric, in a hue near Resene California, with a wrap-style cut, Ackermann provided a new point of view to the style.

The soft, new perspective on femininity presented by Valentino was inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's renaissance-era painting 'Garden of Earthly Delights'. In Pierpaolo Piccioli's first show since the departure of his partner to Dior, there was a distinct Italian aesthetic; consisting of layers of lace, gauzy maxi dresses for day-wear, and intricately embellished fabrics. Piccioli's creations radiated subtle sophistication, and easy grace. Permanent pleats were elemental in several dresses in the collection, adding subtle movement and ease to long dresses. A long-sleeved dress in a soft peach tone, close to Resene Beethoven, featured small knife pleats at the yoke, which epitomized the historicism and poise spread through the collection. **AW**