

COLOUR TRENDING

Trench (Coat) Warfare

Fashion is known for poaching aesthetic inspiration from a wide variety of sources, but throughout modern couture is there any influence which has come around as many times, in as many different variations, as the military look? There's something about a crisply cut trench coat and a statement pocket which captures designers' imaginations.

A.P.C. oscillated between decades, but kept to a neutral colour palette in their Fall/Winter 2017-2018 collection. The styling was clean and effortless, imbuing the collection with a modern look, despite the wide range of influences. The crisply cut coats and wide legged denim was styled with minimal accessories and gave way to 1970's inspired ditsy floral dresses. Later, the 1940's were woven into the mix, in the form of coats with Peter Pan collars, capelets thrown back over shoulders and high waisted pants with a relaxed cut. The 2000's made a brief appearance, with low-slung baggy jeans which distorted models' silhouettes reminiscent of the era's iconic skater boy figure. The military influence was felt through mainly classic trench coats, shown in navy, khaki similar to Resene Blue Smoke, and camel.

Diesel Black Gold presented a conservative show, with splashes of tailoring, jersey and suede. The result; an eminently wearable collection which featured subtle yet unique cuts, such as a high-necked leather long sleeve top, and a bohemian-print jacket with a utilitarian feel. The military influence came across through the small details; statement pockets, zips and fine knit turtlenecks in a hue similar to Resene Half Colins Wicket. Overall, the collection was cohesive, and filled with precisely designed pieces which could stand alone and blend into many wardrobes.

Punk met conceptual new-age design at Junya Watanabe Fall/Winter 2017-2018. The collection featured innovative design concepts, with garments crafted to look like spiky multi-faceted ponchos. Capes made with contrasting patches of fabric looked simply layered onto models' bodies. Combined with punchy tartan and accessorised with fishnet tights, shirts and combat boots, the look was essentially Brit-Punk with touches of military influence popping in through a trench coat with patched sleeves and slouchy parkas in khaki close to Resene Paddock.

An unmissable mixture of colours and motifs made up House of Holland's Fall/Winter 2017-2018 collection. The collection had girly, retro vibes, mixed with cowboy elements and statement fur coats. Appliqué spelling 'Daddy' and other risqué catchphrases adorned sweaters, and set the fun, youthful tone of the collection. The palette moved from bright, bubblegum hues to camouflage colours, and then into darker metallic shades.

The military influence was made more fresh and modern with the addition of Appliqué eyes layered over the camouflage, which featured shades similar to Resene Aspiring. The use of the camouflage print also added to the youthful feel, used for on-trend pyjama style set, a fitted mini dress, cowboy boots and an oversized puffer coat. The hues also carried over into fluffy statement fur, and fringed maxi-dresses.

Sharon Wauchob's vision of femininity evoked 1970's utilitarianism, with subtle hints of glamour thrown in the mix. Wide-cut lapels, and oversized shirts were predominant, paired with delicate pleated skirts, and sheer, shimmering lace. The palette was muted, with an air of grown up romance - soft blush shades and deep maroons were broken up with slate grey, and small bursts of gold and buttercup yellow.

The military influence was mainly felt through the mannish, oversized tailoring, which made the models appear androgynous. A khaki jacket close to Resene Bitter was cut in a relaxed shape; not the traditional trench coat design. Styled with khaki leather sock boots, the look was modern yet modest, and conceptual while still wearable.

The Fall/Winter 2017-2018 collection from Kenzo was extroverted yet succinct. Brilliant red and blue ditsy floral prints, in a range of wide cut, demure garments meshed cohesively with figure hugging neon knits. Models perched on sky-high flatforms, worn over red floral tights. Voluminous silhouettes had a Victorian air, and military tones were hinted at through clean cut jumpsuits, with trench-like self-belted details. Variations of the design were in deep purple, and a khaki tone similar to Resene Gingko.

Rick Owens Fall/Winter 2017-2018 was unapologetically conceptual, a challenge to the consumer and concept of fashion. While previous collections have approached the avant-garde but retained a basic element of wearability, Owens' latest offering was less garment driven and more an expression of art. Models wore headgear crafted from a square metal frame attached to their head and stretched sweatshirt sleeves which sometimes appeared shaped into rabbit ears.

The clothes themselves appeared wrapped around the models, with what appeared to be sleeveless, zip-up vests hanging off model's waists. Garments which were distinguishable were created in unusual ways, with jacket sleeves sewn in around the neck of a garment, and extra sleeves hanging out from underneath. Military inspiration was seen through the khaki palette, and thick jacketing. On-trend puffer jackets were converted into oversized capes, shrouding models in colours similar to Resene Cabbage Pont.

1930's feminine silhouettes combined with precise military-inspired tailoring was the order of the day at Simone Rocha. The collection featured a muted palette, made up of blacks, khakis similar to Resene Bandicoot, and brown furs. Later in the collection came a vibrant red floral motif which adorned black and beige pieces, and lastly, dramatic white lace dresses. Military details included voluminous pockets, wide lapels, self-belts and double-breasted jackets. **AWB**

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