

STYLE

WORLD VIEW

New schools of style are emerging from the different fashion capitals as young designers take cues from iconic names, cultural differences and artistic movements. *Vogue* India travels the globe through their designs. By BRONWYN COSGRAVE



A/W '12-13



Designer Alexander Wang with his muse Zoë Kravitz



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SCHOOL: THE NEW DOWNTOWN COOL



ALEXANDER WANG is the leader of a group of gifted young American designers producing bold, urban womenswear.

In February 2011, New York fashion critics wondered if 28-year-old Alexander Wang could “fill the shoes” of Yohji Yamamoto as he opened his first boutique in the Soho space once occupied by the Japanese master. But at the height of the recession, Wang’s relaxed aesthetic (which included T, his diffusion line,) established his retail outpost as a fashion landmark. His rise has been meteoric—at age 20, two years after studying fashion at Parsons The New School for Design, Wang quit to set up a knitwear brand in his apartment with backing from his sister.

After the ready-to-wear brand he launched in S/S '07 became a critical and commercial hit, he followed it up with accessories. Though he expanded his palette beyond black, the collection has retained its urban look. The line is sold globally, but the jogging-inspired ‘sweatrousers’ and tanks—and studded Rocco handbag—are a uniform for downtown New York women as well as Wang’s muse, actress Zoë Kravitz.

INSPIRATION

MARC JACOBS



Alexander Wang is frequently described as the “next Marc Jacobs” due to the designers’ shared following of models and rock stars.

Both labels are based in artsy Soho, New York and also flourished upon their launch of must-have accessories.

PEERS

CREATURES OF THE WIND

Chicago Art Institute graduates **Shane Gabier**, 38, and **Chris Peters**, 28, launched Creatures of the Wind in Windy City Chicago in 2007. The label offers a quirky, feminine spin on downtown cool, with trademarks that include punk-inspired striped sweaters, metallic silk and leather jackets and well-cut trousers.



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SIKI IM

German-born New York designer **Siki Im**, 34, studied at the Oxford School of Architecture. Though he produces menswear, his deconstructed style is flattering to the female form, as shown on editor Shala Monroe.



Shala Monroe in a Siki Im jacket



SCHOOL:
TRANSATLANTIC
GLAMOUR
 AMERICA

JOSEPH ALTUZARRA, 28, is the best-known name from the crop of up-and-coming Manhattan-based womenswear designers whose work is defined by the Continental flair of their European heritage.

Winner of the 2011 CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund, Paris-born Joseph Altuzarra's A/W 2012-13 collection earned plaudits because of the craftsmanship that translated its exotic inspiration—Corto Maltese, an adventurer created by Hugo Pratt for a series of comics. Altuzarra presented parkas, silk cargo trousers, velvet jeans and fringed and fox-trimmed knitwear; all of which alluded to Maltese travelling the world and appreciating the beauty of its decorative treasures.

Sophisticated, feminine luxury is the signature of Altuzarra, who upon graduating in art history from Philadelphia's Swarthmore College in 2005, interned at Marc Jacobs, served as a Proenza Schouler design assistant, and worked with Nicolas Caito (New York's "premiere pattern-maker") and Riccardo Tisci at Givenchy. Weeks after his debut collection in 2009, former editor of *Vogue* Paris, Carine Roitfeld, appeared in one of his runway looks.



INSPIRATION

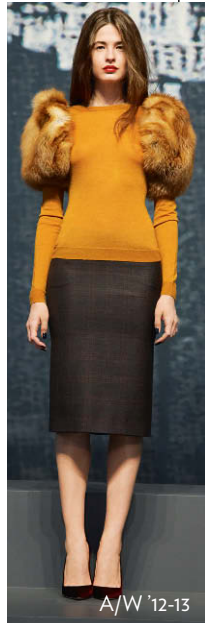
GUCCI

Altuzarra credits the discovery of Tom Ford's Gucci advertising when he was a teenager as a formative moment in motivating him to pursue fashion.

PEERS

WES GORDON

Wes Gordon, 25, spent six months at Tom Ford's London design studio and two summers apprenticing in Oscar de la Renta's New York atelier. This experience—which Gordon balanced between semesters at London's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design—is said to have honed the tailoring skills of the Atlanta-born designer, who launched his eponymous New York label in 2010. Lena Dunham—actor and creator of television show *Girls*—showcased his skill at New York's 2012 Costume Institute Ball, where she modelled an emerald-green cocktail gown he made for her.



GIULIETTA

A Florentine native, Sofia Sizzi, 34, worked with Gucci, Donna Karan and Calvin Klein prior to launching her womenswear brand Giulietta. Sizzi's runway looks include clothes crafted with vintage Italian techniques, satin and velvet shoes, and jewellery fashioned by artisans.



Artist MIA at the 2012 Super Bowl



Amber Le Bon for Fausto Puglisi A/W '12-13



Vogue Nippon's Anna Dello Russo in a look from the designer



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INSPIRATION

GIANNI VERSACE

Fausto Puglisi consulted for the Milanese brand back in the '90s, and his work is also influenced by the rock'n'roll-meets-Roman aesthetic Versace established as his trademark.

PEERS

CHRISTOPHER KANE

Christopher Kane's collection has consistently paid tribute to Versace with masterfully subtle touches. This Scottish-born 30-year-old turned down a full-time post at Versace when he emerged as the star fashion graduate from Central Saint Martins in 2005. Meanwhile, as Donatella Versace continued to champion Kane—comparing their close bond to what she once shared with her brother—she charged him with reinvigorating Versus, the brand's diffusion line in 2009. The rebellious flirtatiousness now infusing Versus merges Italian femininity and an East London edge.



A/W '11

FRANCESCO SCOGNAMIGLIO

Francesco Scognamiglio, 37, met Donatella Versace upon graduating from the fashion programme at Naples College of Design in 1994, and he

spent five years working for the house. In 2000, he launched his independent career with a couture collection in Rome. A year later he took on Milan, where he continues to show his glamorous line, which blends vampish tailoring with a couture feel. >

SCHOOL: HARD BAROQUE



ITALY

FAUSTO PUGLISI's extravagant creations put him at the head of a pack of young designers flourishing in Milan, whose brash romanticism recalls the dazzling, flamboyant beauty of the late Gianni Versace.

"I'm obsessed with the Roman Empire," says the Milan-based Sicilian designer Fausto Puglisi, explaining the gladiator-influenced leather dresses he made for Nicki Minaj and MIA to perform in at the Super Bowl XLVI halftime stage show. Although Puglisi, 36, has a signature that's much older, the gold studs and flirty pleats recalled Gianni Versace's early '90s supermodel finery. Over a decade later, Puglisi's S/S 2012 collection was also inspired by Madonna (a muse to Versace), prompting her costume designer Arianne Phillips to enlist him for the recent *MDNA* concert tour. Together, they created bandolier-inspired studded vests and ram-head masks for the back-up dancers. For the opening of Dolce & Gabbana's Milan concept store, Spiga2, Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana encouraged Puglisi to launch a capsule womenswear collection, and it continues to be sold there.



Linda Evangelista in Erdem

Duchess Catherine in Erdem

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SCHOOL: GRAPHIC REFINEMENT

🇬🇧 LONDON

ERDEM MORALIOGLU, 36, is at the forefront of London designers who have established a demand for artistic prints.

Though sharply cut and modern, the ladylike refinement of Moralioglu's work sets him apart from the avant-garde designers that dominate London. Standout pieces in Erdem's collections transcend seasons, and those featuring luxurious embroidery are often compared to couture.

Moralioglu's prints are digitally rendered, but his garments have an artisanal quality because of their superlative textiles. Duchess Catherine, US *Vogue's* Anna Wintour, Linda Evangelista, Keira Knightley and Samantha Cameron have all been spotted in Moralioglu's dresses this year.

INSPIRATION

DIANE VON FURSTENBERG

Erdem was launched as a line driven by dresses—the mainstay of Diane von Furstenberg's collections, on which Moralioglu worked for a year after graduating from London's Royal College of Art and Design in 2000.

PEERS

MARY KATRANTZOU

Mary Katrantzou, 29, became known as 'Mary, Queen of Prints' after debuting her spring/summer 2010 interior-design-themed collection. It featured prints inspired by the "decorative treasures" amassed by fashion icons Diana Vreeland, Babe Paley and the Duchess of Windsor—and demonstrated her talent for conceiving sculptural silken finery emblazoned with imaginative hyperrealist-style *trompe l'oeil* patterns. Motifs evoking an English garden maze, a manual typewriter and even a man's luxury sports watch, decorated corseted silhouettes and dramatic *gode*-style skirts this season.



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PETER PILOTTO

Peter Pilotto and Christopher De Vos—the 20-something design duo behind Peter Pilotto—classify the patterns they jointly mastermind as "otherworldly". The guiding inspirational force for this inventive pair, who launched their brand in 2008 (eight years after meeting at Antwerp's Royal Academy of Fine Arts), is a "scientific view on nature". They interpret this with the help of a 'print generator'—a computer program that renders their patterns in a kaleidoscopic manner.

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SCHOOL: YOUNG LUXE



VANESSA SEWARD for A.P.C. leads a movement that focuses on making fashion durable and allowing sophisticated designs to remain in your wardrobe even after the trend is over.

Collaborations involving a designer and an established brand customarily feature must-have items. The trouble is, these trend-driven pieces are usually 'in' for only a season. However, 40-year-old Vanessa Seward—former creative director of red-carpet label Azzaro—is aiming to create investment pieces for A.P.C. that lend a luxe sensibility to the label's minimalism. Every item could work as a staple. "It's another take on luxury," explains Seward. Catherine Deneuve—Saint Laurent's muse—ordered Vanessa Seward for A.P.C. when it debuted.

The starting point in conceiving the line was her own wardrobe, which mixes special items like Yves Saint Laurent vintage with denim. Then, Seward set out to create modern classics that she could similarly mix and match. Her autumn/winter 2012-13 collection—which includes hot pants, a collarless blouse and minidresses—is cut from luxurious textiles such as lamé in classic gold and shimmery blue (colours that Seward handpicked).



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INSPIRATION

YSL'S RIVE GAUCHE

This pioneering label was launched by Yves Saint Laurent in 1966 to offer a younger clientele an affordable alternative to haute couture. The line derived its name from the trendy Left Bank, St Germain-des-Prés location of its original boutique. A.P.C.'s headquarters are nearby.

PEERS

CARVEN

Former model Inès de la Fressange demonstrated the relaxed cool of Carven when she paired a black gown with Roger Vivier flat sandals at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. Though her look paid tribute to the spirit of Carven Mallet—who was renowned for crafting evening gowns from humble materials like cotton in 1945—the 32-year-old **Guillaume Henry**, who honed his skills working at Givenchy, eschews Carven's archives for inspiration to concentrate on creating wearable modern pieces. Henry looked to Hieronymus Bosch's *The Garden Of Earthly Delights* to conceive the bohemian print that dominates his current line.



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LIMI FEU

The womanly direction of **Limi Feu's** line has established her identity. The 36-year-old daughter of Yohji Yamamoto worked with him as a pattern-maker and also designed Y's Bis Limi, his diffusion line. For about a decade after launching her eponymous brand in 2000, Feu (who changed her surname after "stumbling" upon it in a dictionary) was defined by the androgynous Yohji Yamamoto sensibility and tailoring. But A/W '12-13 proved to be a breakthrough collection. She experimented with classics and produced a fresh take on the LBD (a Chanel signature) and peasant tailoring (a mainstay of Yves Saint Laurent).



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SCHOOL:
SLAVIC FINERY

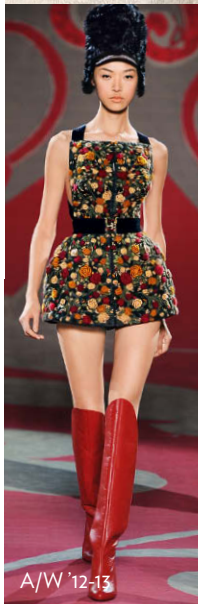
 **RUSSIA**

ULYANA SERGEENKO and her fellow Muscovites skilfully integrate the dazzle of Old Hollywood with the rich history of Russia to create a unique aesthetic.

A street style favourite, Ulyana Sergeenko, 32, wife of a Russian billionaire, debuted her first collection during Paris couture week with Natalia Vodianova headlining. The line-up referenced Travis Banton costumes for Marlene Dietrich in 1934's *The Scarlet Empress*, in which she played Catherine the Great. Looks included floor-sweeping cloaks and jackets inspired by Russian military tailoring, gowns in Russian red and black, as well as a long, flowing mink skirt.



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INSPIRATION

PARIS COUTURE

Sergeenko's couture line brings to mind those launched by socialites like Jacqueline de Ribes and the sartorial excellence of 1920s Paris. Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna—first cousin of Tsar Nicholas II—then produced embroidered garments for Coco Chanel's fabled 1922 Russian Collection. Thanks to the experience, she established her own thriving Paris atelier, which specialised in folkloric couture embellishment.

PEER

VIKA GAZINSKAYA

Vika Gazinskaya, 30, is always photographed flaunting her label at the shows. Her day dresses and ball gowns feature a modern take on the fit-and-flare silhouette that Christian Dior made a mainstay of couture when he innovated it as the New Look in 1947.



Vika Gazinskaya



SCHOOL:
NEW-ERA
DECONSTRUCTION

 **BELGIUM**

ANTHONY VACCARELLO epitomises the reinvention of the Antwerp Six's sculptural style being undertaken by Antwerp's new designers.

Anthony Vaccarello, 31, rose to prominence after his 2006 graduate fashion collection from Brussels' La Cambre design school earned the Grand Prix de la Mode at the French Riviera's Hyères Festival. Set to work by Karl Lagerfeld at Fendi for two years, he launched his own line in 2008 and made a splash initially with slim-fit little black dresses. Standout items in this collection included minis and evening columns—dresses and jumpsuits—constructed from fabric panels. Almost every piece featured a slashed silhouette.



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INSPIRATION

ANTWERP SIX

"Always black, always sexy," Vaccarello has said of his sartorial direction. With an all-new sensuality, his work interprets the deconstructed tailoring the Antwerp Six innovated in the 1980s. These graduates of Antwerp's Royal Academy of Fine Arts—including Ann Demeulemeester, Dries Van Noten and Walter Van Beirendonck—hailed from the Flanders capital and made their mark by presenting stark, strikingly tailored collections that challenged the exuberance of 1980s fashion.

PEER

LENA LUMELSKY

This Royal Academy of Fine Arts graduate, 37, hails from the Ukraine and launched her label in 2009 with a collection inspired by film noir. **Lena Lumelsky's** style is futuristic, although her A/W '12-13 line in glossy leather recalls '80s deconstruction. ■



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