

In the pink



Rokasanda Ilincic



Eudon Choi

Shades of sugar bon bons, blush and beyond made a sweet antidote to all the tough stuff on the London catwalk. Yes, even though many designers have embraced a new sombre mood for next season with a palette of inky shades, there is still room for a touch of light, if not low-cal, relief. It wasn't all about little-princess dressing for grown-ups either: some candy shades even looked subversively edgy – for example at young designer Simone Rocha's catwalk outing – and were usually offset with those aforementioned inky hues. Even Erdem – who worked with a predominately black palette for the first time – allowed himself to add a little saccharine to the mix. "It's about sweetness on the inside," he said of his black and sweet pea pink-feathered confection, right.



Simone Rocha



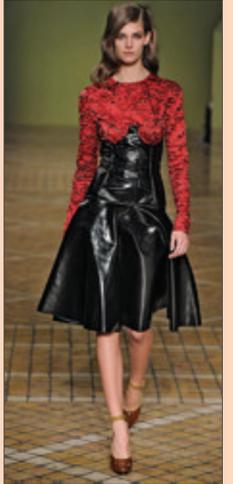
Jasper Conran



From left; Erdem, Preen by Thornton Bregazzi and Burberry Prorsum

Plastic fantastic

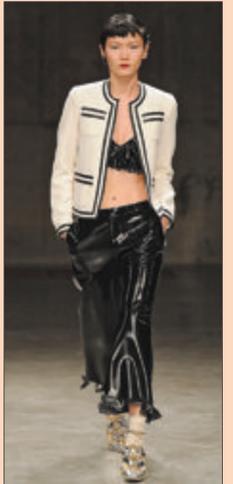
The new season is all about texture – or so say the pundits – and what better way to offset all that mohair, lace, tweed and boiled wool than with the slither of a little synthetic? All manner of man-mades popped up in the most unexpected places – rubber skirts and dresses at Burberry Prorsum and plastic coated wool coats and full skirts at Rokasanda Ilincic – but it was a master of print who made it look like an (almost) viable option. "Yes, it's plastic," said Jonathan Saunders, eyeing up his high-waisted skirts and tops. "There is definitely a kinky element to next season."



Jonathan Saunders



Topshop Unique



Meadham Kirchhoff

London calling

David Hayes reports on the trends emerging for autumn/winter 2013 from London Fashion Week

Punk couture

With New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art launching a major punk retrospective this May, it's no surprise that the home of punk would want to get in on the action. Cue collections full of mini kilts, tartan, zips, camouflage and buckle-strap boots in a hard palette of black, white and red – but given a bit of couture spit and polish for good measure. "We were inspired by Derek Jarman's cult film *Jubilee* as well as Richard Avedon's images of haute couture," said Preen's Justin Thornton. Also, possibly, the idea that all those folks who attend the Met's opening gala might need a thematically appropriate outfit for the red carpet.



Clements Ribeiro



Christopher Kane



Peter Pilotto

Mix and match of the day

Men have started to question the traditional suit. By David Hayes

When is a suit not a suit? No, that's not the opening poser for a Google job interview, but a question that many menswear designers seem to be asking as the new season's crop of clothes comes streaming into stores. "Mixing and matching is something women have been doing for years, but finally men have become confident enough to try it for themselves," says Rake's founder Clive Darby, who based the company on the concept of offering men a range of tailored separates. "The inspiration for the label came from travelling a lot and not wanting to pack loads of different clothes for every different occasion, like having a jacket I could wear as a suit that would also look good on its own with jeans. Now we present up to 30 suits each season which can be worn as a total look or broken up." "Men have started to question what the 'suit' means as the line between work and leisure is increasingly blurred," says Paul Surridge, creative director of Z Zegna. "So it felt right to de-formalise the tailoring in the collection and recon-

sider it as a leisure suit, a uniform of choice. And mixing up suiting with pattern or colour definitely shakes up those traditional codes." See, for example, Salvatore Ferragamo's aqua jacket and turquoise blue trouser combo; Alexander McQueen's contrasting monochrome check blazer and slim pants (pictured right) and Z Zegna's off-kilter optical print two-pieces. Over at Hackett London, the predominance of subtle – and sometimes not-so-subtle – mismatched top and bottom halves, could almost raise the suspicion that something had gone terribly wrong in the shipping. "I think that splitting up the traditional suit is a witty way of creating a wholly personal look," says Jeremy Hackett. "At first glance it may look as though

your outfit has been thrown together but, with the right mix of texture and colour, the overall effect can be really pleasing." Jeremy Langmead, editor of Mr Porter, agrees: "Mixing up your tailoring gives the suit a whole new lease of life. There's a lot of pattern and clashing colours in menswear at the moment and this is a nice way of taking on the trend in an easy, palatable way. Yes, it may sometimes look as if you left the house with the wrong jacket on, but that's all part of a look that the Italians call *sprezzatura*." A man who is no stranger to that particular Italian take on style – which roughly translates as "studied carelessness" – is Luca Rubinacci, son of Naples-based tailor Mariano Rubinacci. "When I wake up in the morning, I look out of my window and the weather inspires me," says Rubinacci. "I don't think long and hard about what I am

going to wear, I just wear it. Anyone who really knows himself, always knows what to wear," he continues. "I think that a well-dressed man wears something not because it catches the eye of others, but for his own pleasure. But it's best not to go beyond your own limits. I mean, if someone is not used to 'the mix', he should start with accessories to give a touch of colour and texture and add more, little by little." "There is actually something really 'old school' about wearing a jacket and trousers that don't match," says 36-year-old management accountant James Hartnett. "It's just like putting a smart blazer with a pair of chinos or grey flannels. Anything that makes my work uniform less formal sounds good to me." Just be sure, cautions Z Zegna's Surridge, that you "never mix too many ingredients in one look. Always let one element of the outfit dominate, either the jacket, the trouser or the shirt. And always check yourself in the mirror before leaving the house."



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