

LONDON FASHION WEEK

Collections packed with personality

London champions designers who dare to do things differently, which bodes very well indeed for your wardrobe. That directional aesthetic has been injected with a fair dose of polish over the past few years, meaning the city's schedule boasts a number of global forces to be reckoned with who still possess that exciting, rebel outlook - naturally.

ROKSANDA

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1

After 10 years in business, Rokanda nails what women of every age want to wear: ultra-flattering, feminine fits with standout details that don't date.

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Roksanda Ilincic



2

The Serbian designer is considered the queen of colour: renowned for instinctive and unexpectedly complementary combinations that bring her sculptural silhouettes to life.

3

AW16 signals a darker direction for the Central Saint Martins grad. The Night Porter film and Deborah Turbeville's photos inform the collection's poetic flourishes.

4

"Everything that I do has an extra discovery when you open the garment," she told us. "This time some of the prints became linings in different colours inside."

5

Transitioning seamlessly from runway to real life, Cate Blanchett and Michelle Obama have fallen for Roksanda's experimental elegance; the Duchess of Cambridge is a big supporter.

6

Roksanda's (no doubt architect-designed) mantelpiece boasts numerous industry accolades including two British Fashion Awards.

Isa ARFEN

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1

Founder Serafina Sama has been upgrading all your failsafe favourites like the black trousers, the statement coat and the off-the-shoulder neckline since 2011.

2

You can see where Sama perfected that off-beat femininity she's made her signature: before starting her own label, the Italian-born, London-based designer worked at Chloé, Louis Vuitton and Acne.

3

Expect cold shoulder shirting, velvet coats and frothy tulle dresses for AW16, which combines eclectic inspirations like European aristocrats and '80s Blitz club kids.

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Serafina Sama



4

"What I loved about that era was this idea of using clothes as escapism and living for the moment. I felt like we kind of needed that," Sama told us of her AW16 nod to the '80s.

5

Sama showed in London for the first time this season. Working with close friend stylist Valentine Fillol Cordier models boogied in an immersive, club style set.

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6

Isa Arfen's ironic femininity has struck a chord with some of the world's best dressed women including Alexa Chung, Laura Bailey and Rita Ora.

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Peter PILOTTO

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1

Design duo Peter Pilotto and Christopher de Vos aren't just digital print pioneers, they're also fabric developers, talented tailors and dynamite dress specialists.

2

The 2014 British Fashion Council/VOGUE Fashion Fund winners first met at the world-renowned Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp.

3

Reaching head-turning new heights, their AW16 collection is filled with psychedelic harlequin prints, graphic lace spliced with lurex and spellbinding embroidery.

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Christopher de Vos and Peter Pilotto



4

"We wanted to have a Nordic feel to the collection. That idea of going on a journey to somewhere we haven't been," they told us.

5

Diversifying into jewellery this season with a Swarovski collaboration, the colourful, geometric pieces are inspired by nature and the mechanics of modern art.

6

A firm favourite with fashion insiders and A-listers since their launch in 2007, Michelle Obama, Emily Blunt and Olivia Palermo are part of Peter Pilotto's global fanbase.

Natasha ZINKO

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1

Part of the Ukrainian fashion set making waves worldwide, glamorously eccentric collections and a thick crown of red curls set Natasha Zinko apart.

2

A law graduate turned jeweller turned ready-to-wear designer, Zinko first made pieces for close friends first and trained at Chelsea College of Art and Central Saint Martins.

3

Zinko specialises in a distinctly quirky version of femininity, sprinkling her creations with eclectic embellishments and punchy prints (the more irreverent the better).



Natasha Zinko



4

Referencing Picasso's drawings and Constructivist artist Natalia Goncharova for AW16, the playful proportions are emphasised by girlish ruffles and fruity embroidery.

5

"I want to wear clothes that lift my mood," Zinko told Vogue.com. "When I'm designing or even just getting dressed, I think: How do I want to be?"

6

Handcrafted in her London atelier, Zinko's Instagram bait designs dress down easily and have been spotted on the feeds of Miroslava Duma and Beyoncé.

Image and video credits

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1. Violet Crepe Knot Front Jumpsuit. Image via Avenue 32.
2. Roksanda AW16 at London Fashion Week. BFC video via youtube.com.
3. Roksanda in her studio. Image via theguardian.com.
4. Cream Contrast Collar & Bow Kellaway Shirt. Image via Avenue 32.
5. Roksanda's studio. Image via theguardian.com.

Isa Arfen

1. Stripe Off The Shoulder Knot Top. Image via Avenue 32.
2. Sama at her studio. Image via Avenue 32.
3. Sama's moodboard. Image via Avenue 32.
4. Cognac Tulle Flocked Off Shoulder Top. Image via Isa Arfen AW16 lookbook.
5. The collection illustrated. Image via @isa_arfen.
6. Dark Green Velvet Majestic Jacket. Image via Avenue 32.

Peter Pilotto

1. Claire Danes wearing Black Printed Ruffe Midi Dress. Image via @peterpilotto.
2. AW16 show space. Image via @peterpilotto.
3. Black Lace Argyle Gown. Image via vogue.com.
4. L to R Christopher de Vos and Peter Pilotto. Image via vogue.de.
5. Alice Naylor-Leyland wearing White Silk Floral Guipere Lace Gown. Image via @peterpilotto.
6. Harlequin Full Length Long Sleeve Dress. Image via vogue.com.
7. Michelle Obama wearing the Black Silk Printed Tier Ruffe Dress. Image via @peterpilotto.

Natasha Zinko

1. WhiteTulle Puff Maxi Kaltan. Image via Natasha Zinko AW16 lookbook.
2. Emerald Pineapple Patch Jumpsuit. Image via Avenue 32.
3. Zinko and her team. Image via @natashazinko.
4. WhiteTulle Puff Blouse. Image via Natasha Zinko AW16 lookbook.
5. Natasha Zinko. Image by joliegazetta.com.