

SYNAGOGUES AND FASHIONISTAS

Every season, Stephanie Granot presents her up close and personal encounters at New York Fashion Week. This time, she is preparing for next spring. Here are her impressions of New York Fashion Week Spring Summer 2017

By Stephanie Granot



Jeremy Scott

Pics: Reuters



Marc Jacobs

It's that time of year when fashion comes out to play, and last month it came out to play at New York Fashion Week (NYFW). The New York shows were again between homes. Last year, NYFW bade adieu to Lincoln Center following a dispute with the Parks Department, 24 months before the anticipated completion of a permanent venue at Hudson Yards. Thus fashion designers debuted their 2017 spring and summer collections in locales across the city, anchored in the somewhat fashion neverland of a converted post office, albeit a magically transformed one. Speaking of magically converted fashion

venues, one of the locations temporarily invaded by the small armies of models, publicists and beauticians stood out from the rest. Art Hearts Fashion, a platform for emerging international designers that combines art with philanthropy by raising funds and awareness for HIV/AIDS-related causes, held its shows in the Angel Orensanz Event Space, the site of a former synagogue. In a previous lifetime, the building at 172 Norfolk Street had been Congregation Anshei Chesed, a landmark synagogue constructed by German-Jewish immigrants in 1849. The synagogue fell into disrepair in the mid-1900s when

Jews began moving out of New York's Lower East Side, and it held its last religious services in 1974. In its current incarnation, the structure has been restored and remains almost remarkably true to its original architecture. But no matter where the venue, the steady stream of fashionistas, celebrities and industry giants, as well as the throngs of photographers and autograph seekers who pressed up against police barricades outside, attested to the fact that the 2017 shows were as undeterred by locale as they were by the growing demands from segments of the market to "see now, buy now."

It was only a matter of time until the urge for immediate gratification, fostered by a fast-paced world and nurtured by social media, began hankering for things to go directly home and buy. But let's face it, who really wants to wait until April to wear a look you fell in love with in September?

In an even further sign of the times, several longtime designers such as Yigal Azrouel and Misha Nonoo took the novel (and economical) step of presenting their collections digitally. All in all, though, there was still plenty of exciting runway action at NYFW SS17, although the week (fortunately) lacked much of the drama that unfolded two weeks later when Fashion Week moved to Paris and Kim Kardashian was bound, gagged and robbed at gunpoint by masked men in her hotel room. The most contentious moment during NYFW may have been the small brouhaha that erupted over hairdos at the Marc Jacobs show. Jacobs took fire for doing his (predominantly white) models' hair in dreadlocks. As one offended fan tweeted, "Why couldn't Marc Jacobs hire black models with real dreadlocks? Is that so hard?" Enough said. In any case, when the dust settled, some sweet and decidedly feminine trends had revealed themselves. And now, without further ado:

Spring/Summer 2017 trends

Trends come and go, but the key to rocking them is remembering what works for you. There's no better defense against a trend you know you'll never rock than a closet stocked with staples: jeans or jean skirts, T-shirts, blazers and little black dresses. However, since we are on the subject of Fashion Week and its trends, here are some main trends that are about to take over in the spring of 2017:

Soft shirts: Draped, wrapped, low-cut, this spring's blouses are anything but tailored.

Cut it out! Chests, waists, bums, legs. If you could peep there, there was a peep-hole.

Embellishments everywhere: Ruffles, tassels, fringe, embroidery and



Oscar de la Renta

sequins were on everything from T-shirts to trench coats.

Frilly is flattering: The flouncier, the bouncier, the better.

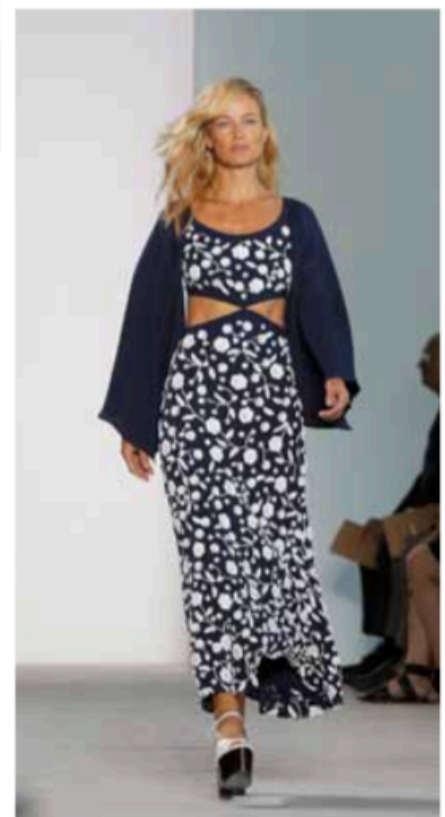
Wild West: Fringe jackets, cowgirl hats and bandanas were a look. A better one than you might think.

Sheer joy: Soft, sheer layered fabrics dominated the runways.

Not so mellow yellow: From deep amber to bright dandelion, cheerful yellow was everywhere. It popped even more with statement gold earrings.

Slinky silver: What's sexier than silver lame? Designers across the board did up shiny metallics.

Neon highlights: Who needs red? Neon is the new neutral. Highlighter colors lit up the runways all week long.



Michael Kors