

# Style Sketchbook

Jaunty capes, scarf prints and bustiers – master the new old-fashioned with this season’s heritage-inspired trends

## LAYERED BUSTIER

OFF-WHITE AW18

### Style Note

The bustier is back, and no, it doesn’t want to go to the ball. Instead, this season, the form-fitting curve enhancer was given a cool, editorial spin that centred on artful layering, worn atop starchy white shirting (Off-White), printed silks (Versace) and even dress-down long sleeved tees (Johanna Ortiz). The final aesthetic was a departure from the bustier’s usual raunchy persona and full of idiosyncratic charm, yet still powerfully feminine. The décolletage-boosters themselves came in an array of unexpected prints, cuts and colourways. There were flashes of waist-nipping neon from Donatella, jacquard weave bustier-topped jumpsuits in countrified prints at Off-White, and Ortiz’s dusty pink floral silks. Louis Vuitton’s interpretation of the trend came in the form of cami-bustier hybrids crafted from monochrome gingham, teamed with soft grey sweaters and tawny suede trousers.

### How To Wear It

Imaginative layering is key to this trend. Leave the cleavage under wraps and pay homage to Donatella, by wearing a bustier over borrowed-from-the-boys suiting, or for a club-appropriate twist, a slogan tee. This is a trial-and-error exercise that takes confidence, but really anything goes in terms of your underlay, from shirts to blouses to knitwear. The most important part is to play with contrasting colours and textures, with Ortiz’s concoction of floral motif silks and cotton tees being a prime example. If your bustier is richly patterned, choose a crisp neutral base, as per Off-White’s shirting. Equally, a black bustier will look the business offset against one of this season’s loud scarf print dresses – and create a svelte waistline to boot.



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## SCARF PRINTS

RICHARD QUINN AW18

### Style Note

It takes a special talent to get Royal posteriors in seats, and Richard Quinn – recipient of the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II award for Design – did just that, with HRH herself attending in a historic first visit to Fashion Week. The Queen watched on as models sashayed down the runway in vibrant clashing silks, glistening foiled gowns with pussy-bow capes, and gargantuan floral puffas. Scarves, and scarf prints, were central to the collection, with Quinn explaining that he amped up the component upon hearing about his surprise guest, calling it “a tongue-in-cheek take on Balmoral”. The London-born designer delivered his scarves in a host of fresh and exciting ways, artfully knotted, draped and interwoven to create voluminous midi skirts, belts and over-long sleeves. Accompanied by bursts of heavy metal and eccentrically styled with neon motorcycle helmets and patterned gimp masks, the show was not for the faint-hearted, but Her Majesty appeared resolutely unfazed.

### How To Wear It

Forget sun-slashed trips to the Riviera, this season the silk scarf is a winter staple. The silver screen siren favourite is no longer confined to the head, either. Take your cue from Richard Quinn and belt a silky maxi dress with a headscarf in a contrasting print, or look to young French designer Marine Serre, who knotted silk scarves into makeshift handbags and colourful bralettes worn over tees. Don’t limit yourself to accessories, though, flora and fauna scarf prints were enlarged and splashed over feminine, semi-sheer dresses at Oscar De La Renta, or used to elevate slate grey tailoring at Toga.

## CAPES

BURBERRY AW18

## Style Note

Capes were out with Holmesian fervour at the AW18 shows, with most falling into one of two camps: sleek and traditional offerings came in the form of glossy floral jacquard, as seen at Erdem, or opulent wool creations in earth, sand and khaki colourways, like those at Alberta Ferretti and Jacquemus. Then there were the capes that cut a more eccentric figure. At Dior, Maria Grazia Chiuri went back to the 60s, layering snugly shearling capes over Technicolour patchwork mini dresses, while Salvatore Ferragamo's shoulder candy found its home in peat-coloured tech fabrics, drawstring details dangling from loose, rain-proof cuts. One cape, however, was in a league all of its own. Closing Christopher Bailey's LGBTQ-dedicated collection, Cara Delevingne stomped the runway swathed in rainbow faux fur, a letterbox red collar buttoned at her neck, swishing the long train of fabric to reveal a flash of reworked house check beneath. It was loud, it was proud, it was brazen. And the crowd adored it.

## How To Wear It

If you're wearing a cape for the first time this winter, stick to classic styles with a directional twist like those seen at Erdem and wear your cape in a dark floral fabric, layered over white shirting, tuxedo trousers and patent brogues. Alternatively, embrace the long-line wool styles championed by Alberta Ferretti, thrown over a soft roll neck and cinched in with a belt in a complementary colourway. Faux fur or shearling capes work best with micro-mini hemlines and chunky boots for a touch of Carnaby Street heritage - just add a bakerboy cap and sunnies if you want to pay full homage to Chiuri.



## COAT LAYERING

ROKSANDA AW18

## Style Note

One coat simply isn't enough for AW18, no. In the vein of Joey Tribbiani emerging from the Narnia wardrobe, this season the runways encourage a double, even triple, serving of outerwear. As temperatures err towards the chilly, take inspiration from the likes of Balenciaga, Maison Margiela and Calvin Klein, who layered their outerwear to create the ultimate in snugly, cocooning comfort. The final look is voluminous, ultra modern and, in its apparent concern about the impending elements, distinctly British. There were oversized leather macs over longline khaki coats at Calvin Klein and triple-helpings of slouchy, primary coloured anoraks at Balenciaga, but we fell hardest for the soft decadence of Roksanda's candy pink quilted coat nestled below teddy-like tan shearling. Hibernation never looked so chic.

## How To Wear It

It's difficult to go wrong with this trend; it's fun, playful and doesn't take itself too seriously. The most important point is to switch up your textures and colourways. Remember, opposites attract: offset light with dark, bold print with block colour and fuzzy softness with high-shine finishes. A faux fur jacket in a punchy neon shade will really pop against a black vinyl mac, for instance. Shapes are important, too. Try experimenting with long and short lengths, as per the layered looks at Alexander McQueen, where shiny biker jackets were worn over long cream tailored blazers. For a streetwear inspired aesthetic, make like the models at Maison Margiela, where cobalt blue puffas and XL anoraks were thrown over parkas and tailoring. Stay cosy out there, kids.

