

Fashion Forecast

by Sandra Keiser and Brenda Schweder



A military blue bubble skirt is a fall staple.

Style falls on the dark side



Choose one color and mix textures: pair a crocheted hoodie with satin pants.

Color, embellishment, and body-consciousness dominated previous collections, but new styles focus on a brooding palette and fuller shapes. The mood shifts from delicate femininity to strong self-assurance. Jewelry is dark and asymmetrical, celebrating individuality with mixed-media pieces. Urban warriors and dark romantics will love fall's edgy, industrial looks.

TEMPERED PALETTES AND NEW FABRICS

The season's colors carry a **hint of twilight**: frost gray, pewter, military or inky blue, and brown — **austere hues** that aren't too saturated. The omnipresence of black is undeniable, either combined with white or as a wash over other colors.

Achieve monochromatic, tone-on-tone looks by **combining different fabrics**. Today's "natural" fabrics have gone high tech. New developments include multiple layers of thin felt; printed felt; rubberized linen; creased, shrunken leather; and treatments of coal dusting, waxing, or oiling to toughen up fabrics.

ARCHITECTURE FOR THE BODY

New silhouettes are more **voluminous and architectural**, with particular focus on the sleeve and the waist. Envision billowy sleeves that taper toward the wrist. Jackets and blouses have sleeve details such as long columns of buttons. **Tops are fuller**, but artfully placed darts and ties help define their shape.

The location of the waist varies, ranging from under the bust to the hip. Look for a **bubble or balloon skirt** that's pulled in at the hem and possibly filled out with a crinoline.

Urban details include grommets, decorative zippers, and raw edges on skirt hems and necklines. Inspirations include men's haberdashery (flannel topcoats, suits with vests, and smoking jackets) or **power women of the '80s** (think Alexis Carrington from *Dynasty*). Garments have strong (but not exaggerated) shoulders and masculine tailoring. Skirt hems display wide bands of fabric or faux fur for a textural contrast. Overall, the look is less feminine and **more streetwise**.



Punch up a gray printed tee by layering a purple or red tank underneath.



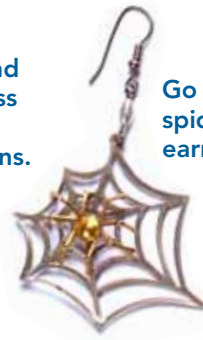
In cooler weather, layer a taupe jacket over a burgundy blouse.

GOTHIC CHIC

Gothic motifs are everywhere — skulls (with or without crossbones), daggers, black roses, Gothic crosses and typefaces, snakes, spiders and webs, bats, and other winged creatures. Today's interpretations are genteel and high-end — a handbag with a crystal-encrusted skull and crossbones, a silk dress with a skull print. Mix these symbols with lots of silver chain, chain mail, or leather (studded or spiked).



Embrace the trend by wearing a cross bracelet with a multitude of chains.



Go for bold spiderweb earrings.

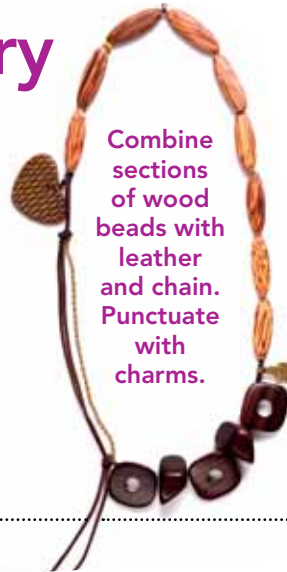
Try a hoop earring of brass or oxidized chain — pretty, but edgy.



A black leather bangle also pairs well with fall's urban looks.

Segmented jewelry

Necklaces take a mix-and-match approach. For asymmetrical styles, link segments of chain, fiber, leather, and beads with rings and medallions. Focal elements are at key intervals — think 2 o'clock and 7 o'clock. There's a deliberate imbalance to designs — picture a single, skinny chain amidst chunkier segments or vintage scarves knotted haphazardly and hung from chain. Superlong necklaces are slung messenger-style over one shoulder. Necklaces aren't the only jewelry to get the segmented treatment: try a bracelet strung with same-sized pearls and a few in a contrasting color, or wear earrings of mismatched lengths.



Combine sections of wood beads with leather and chain. Punctuate with charms.



Large links connect with chain in a necklace that suits the season's strong lines.



A round pendant unifies a necklace that has three different strands.

DO IT YOURSELF



A beaded scarf (p. 60) looks dramatic with monochromatic clothing.



Cinch a billowy top with a coin-embellished belt (p. 96).



Accent fall's darker colors with jewelry in hues of amethyst and burgundy (p. 90).

For the softer side of urban chic, string a segmented necklace (Your Perfect Look, p. 50, 800-533-6644, beadstylemag.com).



Jewelry links

- alexandani.com
- ardenb.com
- catherineweitzman.com
- colettemalouf.com
- extasia.com
- raveneve.com
- twisted-silver.com

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