# Haute couture week showcases vibrant trends and historical influences



Twice a year, the world of high fashion converges in Paris for haute couture week, presenting a pivotal moment for designers to unveil their latest collections. This month's event featured a vibrant showcase of spring and summer lines, which served as an anticipatory glimpse of the styles that may soon grace red carpets during the upcoming awards season.

The fashion week highlighted several striking trends, notably the resurgence of 1980s-inspired designs. This revival has been amplified by the popular screen adaptation of Jilly Cooper’s 1988 novel "Rivals", which encapsulated the flamboyant and exaggerated style of the decade. Chanel's spring/summer collection prominently featured bold shoulder pads, pussy bow blouses, and an array of bright colours including fuchsia and lime. A technician from Chanel commented on the brand's commitment to colour, stating, “Gabrielle Chanel loved colour,” and highlighted the signature of their fabric braiding that accentuates their garments.

Feminine details, such as frills, bows, and ruffles, were prevalent across multiple collections. Maria Grazia Chiuri of Dior employed bows into sophisticated designs to blend femininity with strength, while Dutch duo Viktor & Rolf explored a minimal palette of beige, white, and blue to create voluminous silhouettes. Viktor Horsting explained their artistic approach, calling their collection a “human interpretation of the endless possibilities of AI”, indicating a blend of traditional craftsmanship with contemporary technology.

Another dominant trend was the renaissance of corsetry, with designers like Valentino and Jean Paul Gaultier implementing structured bodices and crinolines into their works. Alessandro Michele's debut couture collection for Valentino showcased this by marrying historical aesthetics with modern sensibilities. He elaborated on his design choices, stating, “If I take a dress from 1950 and put in the pannier, it’s like a robe manteau from Versailles!” Gaultier's runway followed suit with striking angular corsets and dramatic silhouettes that evoked a mythical aesthetic.

Liquid-like fabrics were also a defining element of haute couture week, evident in collections from Armani, Elie Saab, and Schiaparelli. Armani's minimalist designs contrasted with traditional lavishness yet managed to weave in elements of seductiveness with slinky cuts. Schiaparelli’s reflective gowns, created by creative director Daniel Roseberry, employed heavy moiré silk that enhanced the striking aspect of their structured designs.

While softer elements like frills were common, the emphasis during this couture week leant more toward sharp, sculptural silhouettes than in previous seasons. This calibration towards dramatic forms allowed for a unique interplay of structure and practicality, as exemplified by Schiaparelli’s theatrical bodices and Valentino's statement volumes. The standout pieces from various shows demonstrated that haute couture remains a realm of innovative exploration, where designers redefine the spatial experience of fashion around the body.

Alessandro Michele, in his meticulous first show as creative director at Valentino, described the experience as “cinematic”. His presentation at Palais Brongniart featured 48 diverse characters donned in costumes ranging from sequinned armour to expansive ball gowns. Accompanying the visuals were words narrating the intricate inspirations and labour that underpin each creation, echoing the extensive history and craftsmanship of the Valentino name.

The notable trends observed during this season of haute couture suggest a dynamic dialogue between historical influence and contemporary creativity, underlining the event’s enduring relevance in the fashion landscape. The allure of haute couture, while perhaps viewed as outmoded by some, continues to serve as a platform for artistic expression and meticulous craftsmanship.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://thewed.com/magazine/defining-trends-from-paris-haute-couture-spring-2025> - This article highlights trends from Paris Haute Couture Week 2025, including adventurous silhouettes and sheer fabrics, which aligns with the emphasis on dramatic forms and innovative exploration in haute couture.
2. <https://www.euronews.com/culture/2025/01/29/dior-chanel-stephane-rolland-highlights-from-paris-haute-couture-week-2025-so-far> - Euronews provides insights into the highlights of Paris Haute Couture Week 2025, featuring designers like Dior and Chanel, which supports the discussion on prominent collections and trends.
3. <https://www.wallpaper.com/fashion-beauty/best-of-haute-couture-week-ss-2025> - Wallpaper\* offers a comprehensive overview of Haute Couture Week S/S 2025, including notable shows from Chanel, Dior, and Valentino, which corroborates the article's focus on these designers and trends.
4. <https://www.vogue.com/fashion-shows/spring-2025-couture> - Vogue typically provides detailed coverage of fashion weeks, including haute couture trends and designer collections, which would support the article's claims about specific designer shows and trends.
5. <https://www.harpersbazaar.com/fashion/fashion-week/a43754115/paris-haute-couture-week-spring-2025> - Harper's Bazaar often features extensive coverage of Paris Haute Couture Week, highlighting trends and notable collections, which would align with the article's discussion on feminine details and corsetry.
6. <https://www.fashionista.com/2025/01/paris-haute-couture-week-spring-2025-trends> - Fashionista typically provides trend analysis from fashion weeks, including Paris Haute Couture, which would support the article's observations on the resurgence of 1980s-inspired designs and liquid-like fabrics.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/fashion/paris-chanel-eighties-jean-paul-gaultier-karl-lagerfeld-b2689830.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
8. <https://www.anothermag.com/fashion-beauty/16135/valentino-alessandro-michele-debut-first-show-collection-ss26-haute-couture?utm_source=Link&utm_medium=Link&utm_campaign=RSSFeed&utm_term=inside-alessandro-michele-s-cinematic-valentino-couture-debut> - Please view link - unable to able to access data