



Given the numerous changes in creative directors at fashion houses over the past two years, it seems as if the relentless game of designer musical chairs receives more attention than fashion itself. But despite so much noise to contend with, designers this season didn't resort to social-media gimmicks or attention-grabbing stunts. It feels as though fashion's new mood is less defined by drama and more a focus on cut, silhouette and fabric, as evidenced by knockout debut collections at Calvin Klein, Tom Ford and Givenchy, where designers seduced us without shouting. For once fashion feels steady and in the hands of those that know, with a new crop of designers at the helm who needn't rewrite the rule book to prove their talent. Over the next few pages we've rounded up the newest trends and pieces to get acquainted with over the next six months – but the best part? You might already have them hanging in your wardrobe.

BACK TO BASICS

Autumn/winter is upon us, with collections marking a refocus on cut, silhouette and fabric.

Words: MADELAINE CLARK



LEATHER FOR EVERY WEATHER

As temperatures start to dip, it's only natural that fashion's proclivity for leather starts to resurface at this time of year. However, its omnipresence on the autumn/winter 2025 catwalks, which showcased myriad ways of wearing the supple skin, proved the humble hide is worth taking note of this season. Best in class was at Hermès, where creative director Nadège Vanhée's aptly named Leather Dandy collection evolved the French house's equestrian associations, with a sexy and sophisticated offering that included leather hotpants, biker jackets and fingerless gloves. For his Tom Ford debut, Haider Ackermann continued the founder's love for animal skin with his seductive daywear offering of full leather looks; most arresting was an oxblood python leather coat. At Givenchy, new creative director Sarah Burton's ability to cut a strong yet feminine hourglass biker jacket proved she's one of the most talented designers of her generation.



PRADA

ELIESAAB

FENDI

TORYBURCH

CALVINKLEIN

SAINT LAURENT

FERRAGAMO

CHLOE

SIMONE ROCHA

CAROLINA HERRERA

GUCCI

PRADA

FENDI

FRIEND OR FAUX

The resurgence of fur on the catwalks might once have been controversial, but given the recent pressure fashion houses are under to phase it out, the majority of designers work with faux or kinder substitutes, meaning that PETA protestors can rest easy. The biggest signal of the changing times was at Fendi, whose blockbuster co-ed show celebrating the brand's centenary naturally featured a dazzling array of fur coats – after all, it's been central to its DNA from the start – but despite mimicking the looks of mink and fox, most were rendered in shearling. In London, Simone Rocha's analogy of the tortoise and the hare showcased the most creative variations of faux fur, with coats spliced at the hems, bralettes, stoles and even hotpants. Chloe's faux fur stoles riffed off British eccentricity, and Elie Saab's fuzzy accessories deftly balance cuteness with cool.

PENCIL IN

If you were wondering what length hemlines should take this coming season, the catwalks argued the case for just below the knee, with pencil skirts in fashion's favour. Although power suiting has been trending ever since the post-pandemic return to work, this season designers proved women don't need to dress like men to be rulers in the boardroom. That was evidenced most compellingly by Veronica Leoni at Calvin Klein, where a medley of collarless jackets worn over matching pencil skirts balanced Klein's signature minimalism with 21st-century corporate codes in a smash debut. As Gucci awaits a new creative director, its autumn/winter collection created by the studio team was a surprising hit of the season, with 14 looks featuring pencil skirts in every iteration, from tweed to sequined, sheer and patent leather. At Saint Laurent, brightly hued angular silhouettes, formed of bold shoulders and pencil skirts, conjured '80s power dressing without a trouser in sight.



WRAP IT UP

If the autumn/winter 2025 collections are anything to go by, scarf-coat hybrids are the most *en vogue* way to layer as we head into cooler weather. The trend was first favoured by fashion purists such as Toteme and The Row, but this season we saw more brands getting in on the two-in-one style. Designers at Brandon Maxwell, Calvin Klein and Christian Wijnants offered a stunning array of blanket-like coats with matching built-in scarves – proving a fuss-free way to weather the cold. At Courrèges, Nicolas di Felice’s asymmetric, party-approved mini dresses and crop tops featuring trailing hems and integrated scarves will provide his party-loving fanbase the perfect solution for staying cosy after leaving the club. And Sacai’s jumper-cum-scarf is the avant-garde styling hack we all need this winter.



WAIST HIGH

If you’re missing the corset trend that surfaced circa 2022, one of autumn/winter 2025’s hottest trends – a more grown-up version of the cinched-at-the-waist style – might be to your liking. On the catwalks belts came in their dozens, with a multitude of designers proving just one won’t do. At Max Mara, belts in black, brown or oxblood, wrapped twice around the models’ waists, were a tidy contrast to floor-sweeping coats. Aussie designer Christopher Esber referenced shibari, the Japanese art of bondage, opening his show with a bubble hem dress accessorised by crisscrossed belts. Zimmerman and Ralph Lauren presented some of the most romantic collections of the season, wherein strong leather waisted belts contrasted with dreamy crochet and lace. And we’re crowning Bally’s hybrid belt-corset as the centrepiece of the season.