

Colours 'n Trends

Première Vision

During the course of any year we solicit and receive many predictions of the colours and fabrics that should grace the retail rails and shelves at anything up to eighteen months ahead of the date of publication. On occasion we have turned to specialist contributors for interpretation and explanation.

What follows are the most recent inputs from some of the leading oracles in the textiles industry. Not all are necessarily relevant to sports and leisure wear, but the world of fashion has so many facets that cross-fertilisation is inevitable. The language of trend prediction continues to confound.

Première Vision (Autumn / Winter 2005/06)

The season spirit

Fashion takes to a wintry road, with an élan of optimism, feeding on positive tensions between being in or out of equilibrium.

From one universe to another, and without violent opposition, the season clears a path with the energy inherent in the balance between fantasy and elegance. It plays on the richness of plurality, refuses conformity, pays heed to appearance and makes its way ambiguously in order to stand out.

Crossroads summon contrasts in nuances. Crossings thread their way through refinement and rusticity. Fertile detours vibrate between luxury and audacity. Impacts appear between the rational and the emotional. Ramifications meander between ethics and industry. A season of fantasies to take up position crosswise on the road of formalism, to trace one's path without preconception, and to cultivate the art of depth with all the pleasure of what is visual.

Breaking the waves: colour range for 05/06

The range incites to serene and energetic dialogues between softness and audacity.

Placing saturated colours as anchorage points, spicing them with terrestrial darks, tempering them with muted neutrals and stirring them up between hot and cold. Agitating the softness of light, shaking it up with stormy muffled shades and disrupting it with colourful mists. Leading tender neutrals into discussion with turbulent vivids. Making the softest shades chatter with the brightest. Dissociating harmonies, so as to recompose them in imitation camaieux. Contrasting the nuances in softly lit shades with liveliness. Amplifying pigmentations for precious equilibriums. The ardour of a range with a heart full of colour, and a lively spirit.



The formal uniforms of the members of the Australian Olympic squad are a strong indication of the understatement to be expected for the Winter 2005/2006 season.

The Woolmark Company

The Woolmark Company (Spring 2006)

Four themes make up the season: Aquarelle, Plaster, Craft and Palette.

Aquarelle

A moment of suspension, remembering past, whilst imagining future. An infusion of faded pastels as in a cloudy aquarelle. Fairytales and a high-tech setting of Alice in Wonderland. A story concerned with lightness both in spirit and texture, with colours softly shaded off as in thinned-down ink or paint.

The mood is flowing, fragile, sentimental but clean, with a precise feel for composed decoration.

Design draws inspiration from boiserie, stucco work or floral crest patterns reminiscent of tapestry and classic wall-paper, combining transparencies with sharp, very fine contours, as in old water-coloured prints or Indian ink sketches.

Sensuality is concealed behind a fluid veil. Vanishing contrasts of light and shade convey delicate emotions.

Diaphanous and ethereal like ballet dancers by Degas. A different shape of romanticism passing through present-day sensibility for natural evocative features. Organic elements such as trees and leaves are recreated with a less cynical use of technology. Computerised precision allows miniature of sweet retro motifs, bringing on an instant feeling of gentleness. Digitalized patterns.

Plaster

Modern minimalism doesn't give up richness, which is attained through perfection of design and the soft energy of light tones. The innovated identity of the colour palette and the development of materials are the pivoting points of contemporary formal. Style is now basic: sophisticated as well as functional.

An urban look built on neat volumes and simple lines, bringing about a firm, controlled mood.

We don't need to make ourselves conspicuous nor to conform to convention to find acknowledgement.

Self-assurance allows a touch of irony helping to freshen up a formal look with a cool edge. Elegance as a smart alternative to dull standards. Graphic contrasts enhance colour and texture combination to communicate a certain bold awareness, that never exceeds the limits nor turns into an aggressive attitude.

Shaping through fabrication: architectural construction and consistency of colour and material are the two polarised substitutes for all decorative elements. A masculine appeal in resolute features, whilst femininity is expressed in absolute smoothness.

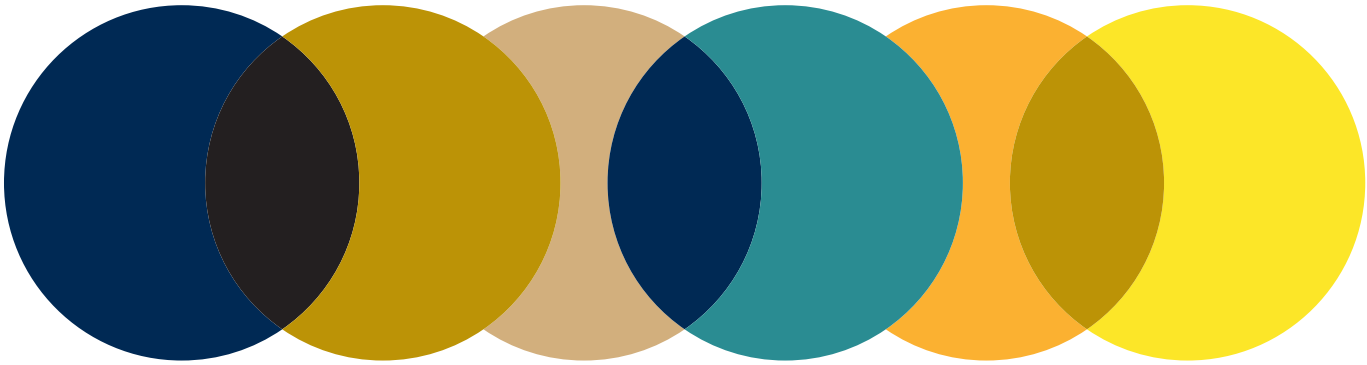
Craft

The dazzling reflection of the sunlight on the desert dunes blurs our perception of the horizon. Features get mingled in a new style definition. We are fascinated by the appeal of the unrefined opposed to the stress on perfection in our society. Distressed, worn out appearances, brushed by the wind and bleached by the sun.

Design of industrial derivation is affected by African tribal aesthetics, renewing the indissoluble connection of mankind with the soil. Looking at cultures where values such as respect and dignity are untouched by industrial materialism. Integrating modern taste with an ancient soul. Imperfection is recognised as a sign of bare humanity. Not rustic, but natural.

Colours blending in an iridescent haze give a completely new twist to what was the meaning of ethnic.

Silhouettes are simple and slightly out-of-shape. Graphic neatness with North African accents and the charm of expert handcraft. A certain primordial pride in the appearances of geometrical designs and woven structures, that is never too precise.



Key directions with colour from Concordia textiles for Autumn and Winter 2005/06.

Concordia Textiles

Palette

The creed lies in the immortal appeal of art. It implies a fervent sensibility that stimulates the beholder to respond, sharing strong emotions, exactly as it happens before a work of art.

Our mood lifts as radiant beauty enters the picture, sending immediate messages of transport and passion.

Exaltation. The celebration of artistic expression. Praising the value of originality: single pieces, limited editions. Curiosity and creativity go hand in hand with freedom of language, through unexpected fusions of all kinds of media.

The symbiosis between pigment and techniques applied to fashion is crucial to achieve unique results. Oil on canvas: brave statements in powerful brushstrokes, portraying a profusion of colours into full bloom.

Drawing from the painter's palette with pigments mixing in waves, dipping one on the other or sprayed as in graffiti. Reframing nature, as in a painting, for expressive effects. A blossoming tropical garden is the adopted country of beauty canons. Flowers - reinterpreted and cleaned up through abstractionism - are the dominant inspirational element.

Concordia Textiles (Autumn/Winter 2005/2006)

Colours

This season's motor is colour. Start the engine and let's colour it all. There will be a lot of vitality in the colour cards this season, shades go from intense and saturated to secret, misted and cold. A personal, skilful, touch is very important.

Colours are to be mixed in your own way; turbulent, brave, contrasting, in balance or not.

Casual fabrics

The season characterises itself with a search for more noble looks, touches and finishes. Reinventing, rethinking the basics for more comfort. The strong influence of wool favours warm treatments. Feltings are soft, brushings delicate and sandings regular.

Sports fabrics

The factors are comfortable and natural with a lot of fluidity, surfaces are slightly brushed. Double faced fabrics in cotton / polyamide. Coatings are greasy, waxed, paraffin touches.

Key directions with colour

The importance lies not in the colour itself but how you arrive at your choice. In the context of a lot of processing, re-working and re-inventing, colour is used as a personal signature. One should understand the effect of light on colour so that electric light, lasers, LED illuminations and even candles become integral to the point of the design.

Work 'traditional' colours in a 'futuristic' way, adding reflections (especially pink based) to neutrals. Underwater shades should follow the illusion between the dry and the wet.

Use the rhythm of greys to orchestrate a season of emotion, remembering that a wide colour choice requires careful editing and a more skilful approach in handling.

Tissu Premier (Winter 2005/2006)

This range, say the exhibition's organisers, was developed in concert with European professionals specialising in colour and fashion. It consists of four family groups:

Peaceful

Suggestive of winter lights and powdery snow on coloured, city neutrals. A delicate mood, grading ecru, cosmetic pinks, romantic mauves and dirty beiges. A chic, sport or lingerie mood... depending on the fabric!

Rare

A shimmery, atmospheric selection un-ostentatiously emphasising the eternal beauty of warm, metallic yellows, coppery reds and spicy browns. A very feminine or casual opulence.

Dreamy

A delicate balancing of the mysterious, the natural and supernatural, and the imaginary. Greyish violets, blueish greens and greenish greys throw a cool veil over the season. Profound, jewelled colours evoke suggestive images.

Original

The impertinence of eccentric chic that manipulates and shifts all influences. Worn with 'no fuss' ease – dense, saturated colours evoke a rich atmosphere, while brights are impudent, muffled or flashy.