



DSQUARED²

It was Gold Rush hour at the DSquared² show this season. The Caten twins pulled out all the stops with their Wild West themed collection that paid homage to the wives, girlfriends and daughters of the pioneers and miners who colonised the American territory in the mid 19th century. Silhouettes were skinny all over with well-defined waists further-enhanced by layering and a dark colour palette used to represent the earthy grounds. This collection was gritty in all the right places.



EMPORIO ARMANI

Everybody loves a spy. There's just something so mysterious and seductive about spies that we just can't get enough of them or Emporio Armani's latest collection. In typical film noir style, models strut the runway in all-black fluid outfits (with flashes of arctic whites) and dark glasses. Looks like La Femme Nikita is back to give 007 a run for his money.

MILAN FALL/WINTER 2011 RUNWAY REPORT

Like any other fashion week, the Milan Fall/Winter 2011 shows were not without drama – both on and off the catwalk. Controversy aside, the Italian city lived up to its reputation where the top designers truly embraced glitz and glamour. While plenty of the city's designers opted for muted colour palettes, others continued to run riot with colours (a sequel to last season perhaps?). One resounding note present across all the top collections? Androgyny is back. By ALICIA TAN



DOLCE & GABBANA

The '80s are back – at least for Dolce & Gabbana it rings true. With our favourite Mambo hits blasting, Stefano Gabbana and Domenico Dolce sent out a collection of old school dueling ideas – masculinity vs femininity. There were models dressed up like boys in tuxedos and brogues, and there were also models dressed up like starlets, literally covered in stars. Overall, it was a fun and nostalgic ride that the design duo took us on, not without putting on display their impeccably sharp tailoring skills.



GIORGIO ARMANI

This season, Giorgio Armani conjured up a dreamlike Boudoir world for us to live and breathe tales of passion. While Spring's colour palette was all velvety midnights, Armani went the pink route for the colder season with soft pinks against black, pewter and brown. The end product? A sultry collection that has hints of lingerie slink. We're sold.





MARNI

If the Marni girl is to grow up, she'll no doubt still be wearing what Consuelo Castiglioni sent out on the catwalks this season. Gone are the days of eccentric edge, this season's Marni girl is all grown up and ready to take on her newfound elegance. Although restrained in embellishments and silhouettes, this collection does not lack the label's signature quirkiness. Geometry still plays a key role, especially in the juxtaposition of colours and textures. A perfect balance between pared down and played up, we're enjoying every minute of the new Marni.



MAX MARA

It was a trip back down to the Swingin' Sixties at Max Mara with a slight twist – the mod girl gets cooler. Models walked the runway in updated British Country threads, where traditional and classic shapes met new technologies. Parkas, duffel coats and biker jackets create new silhouettes with short trapeze-shaped skirts and embellishments from fur appliqués to zips. Truth be told, it's this science fiction edge to the collection that won us over.



JIL SANDER

Last season, Raf Simons went minimalist to the max at Jil Sander and came out tops. With this winning formula, the designer continues to sing the same tune for Fall. While he embraced couture shapes previously, he now injects a spotty spin inspired by Diane Arbus and 1950s ski-wear to his current collection. As per normal with Simons, the collection was all understated elegance done so sleekly that we can't help but want to own everything he sent out. Pure genius.



PRADA

Miuccia Prada never ceases to surprise us. Whenever we think we've seen just about everything, she goes out and proves us wrong with her sheer brilliance. This season, she displays her sartorial sense of humour with a collection that marries female glamour (python, fur and sequins) with innocent girlishness (schoolgirl dresses). Even better, Mrs Prada even introduced a new way for us to carry our bags – clutching them like baby dolls. We're all for returning to our innocence, Prada style.