

NEW RELEASES

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Paris Fashion Week kicks off with tributes to past giants of French fashion and a gaze at the future. Associated Press reports in Paris.

The world's largest traveling circus of fashion editors, models, buyers and journalists has descended on the French capital, clutching their metro maps and city guides to cap the ready-to-wear fashion season.

For fall-winter 2015-16, the dizzying 92 scheduled shows mean the nine-day "week" almost tears at the seams, with events starting early in the day and finishing late at night.

Tuesday — Day 1 — saw collections dominated by rising star Anthony Vaccarello, who has been chosen as the creative designer of Versace's sister line, Versus.

Here's a look at the highlights:

Anthony Vaccarello's match made in Versace heaven

The Italian-Belgian designer is the fashion man of the moment. One of Paris' younger emerging talents, Vaccarello has made a name for himself with provocative styles that are revealing without being vulgar. So the announcement in January that Vaccarello would get together with his spiritual sister Donatella Versace to work on her Versus diffusion line looked like a match made in heaven.

In Tuesday's show, the 32-year-old showed exactly why he's been tapped by the Italian super-house.

The vibe felt very '80s and very Italian, with sharp shoulders, studs and thigh-high stripper boots with lashings of black leather and suede. Splits in the side of an asymmetrical little black dress was adorned with sexy belt fastenings. Stars motifs



Models present creations by (from left) Anthony Vaccarello, Rochas, Dries Van Noten and Cedric Charlier during the 2015-16 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection fashion show on Tuesday in Paris. PHOTOS BY AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

added a feminine twinkle in the collection that seemed to bridge more than ever the similarities between the Versace and the Vaccarello universes.

Paris celebrates Jeanne Lanvin

Along with Coco Chanel and Elsa Schiaparelli, she towered high for decades as one of the pillars of French fashion. Now iconic designer Jeanne Lanvin, who died in 1946, will be honored in a new exhibition at the Paris City Fashion museum at the Palais Galliera.

The show will be inaugurated by Paris' mayor Anne Hidalgo and celebrates Lanvin as being the oldest operating fashion house in France. It's a rich legacy that has spanned the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The show will run until Aug 23.



Each X Other

Each X Other describes itself as a "new androgynous collaborative art and fashion brand, a magnetic point where roads cross and people finally meet".

At their strong debut show in Paris, brand founders Jenny Mannerheim and Ilan Delouis stuck to this mantra and injected a nice whiff of menswear to a highly cool showing of linear styles. With a funky, contemporary art space backdrop at the Palais de Tokyo and a cryptic Goethe quote on the wall, it's clear this house is trying to set itself up as a space where art meets fashion.

It worked. Dark, silken jumpsuits with round collars contrasted with the sharp lapels and square shoulders of a menswear tuxedo. Subtle chevron patterning gave a twist to a cream



overcoat. And huge textured knitting in an oversize blue cocoon sweater was an invitation to a cuddle.

Dries van Noten's cultural symphony

What do you get if you mix a "symphony of cultural references" with "obsessional fabrics"?

Dries Van Noten gave us the answer in his passionate, colorful and unconventional fashion show on Wednesday, which mixed encyclopedic references from across continents and the ages with typical artfulness.

Geisha styles, literally, rubbed shoulders with elbow-length ruffled "Pompadour sleeves", 18th-century full skirts and peplums — while bomber jackets gave the collection a contemporary twist.



The Asian musing produced some very enviable silhouettes — such as one silken coat in ochre and khaki with a decorative disc print, and a high-cinched waist and high-collar.

Above all, it was the color that made this collection shine.

Spun sugar pink, sky gray blue, buttercup and coral fluttered stylishly by alongside what the program notes evocatively described as "shadowy darks", "Raj khaki" and "Eau de Nil".

A cultural symphony at its best.

Rochas celebrates 90 years since birth of house founder

Iconic fashion designer Marcel Rochas — who died in 1955 — was born 90 years ago this year.

To mark this, Rochas' current designer Alessandro Dell'Acqua

delved deep into the house's retro DNA and modernized it with very creative results.

As if sifting through the 1950s look-book, the show opened in a post-World War II donkey brown. A fabulous oversize heart-shaped "sweetheart" neckline — a classic shape of the house — was worn alongside a high waist, nipped-in with a thick buckled belt. What made it so much more than a cut-and-paste job was its looser, softer, modern shape.

The fusing of '50s with a contemporary looseness continued throughout.

A billowing "duster coat" — another retro piece — was slightly draped and hung down, warrior-like and worn with a dress with a crew-neck and sporty details.

A '50s neck bow also made a recurrent appearance alongside contrasting styles — and shows that Dell'Acqua should raid gran's wardrobe more often!

Cedric Charlier's art obsession

Former Cacharel designer Cedric Charlier gave a neat Modernist makeover to sartorial and sportswear silhouettes.

The Belgian designer is clearly an art-lover — in previous collections he has channeled references as diverse as the 20th-century "Art Brut" movement and Dutch Master Brueghel.

In Wednesday's show, he continued his signature architectural musings, but with more than a whiff of Dutch painter Piet Mondrian's color-blocking.

Funky, contrasting colors — such as cobalt and royal blue with flesh pink and white — appeared on ensembles with clean, sanitized lines, such as a statement wool coat with oversize curved lapels.

Elsewhere, there were flashes of Modernist geometry — in one blue and pink sports dress with curved lines that optically accentuated the female body, or, then, on a sweater and skirt with horizontal and vertical lines that perhaps fared less well.

Chengdu report

Robust plans for convention and expo industry

By FU CHAO

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Guided by the nation's "new normal" in economic growth, the convention and exhibition industry in Chengdu is ridding itself of formalities and paying more attention to industrial restructuring, said Mu Tao, director of the city's bureau of expositions.

One major message in the transformation is a shift from speed-centered to quality growth, which allows the bureau to focus on more high-quality projects and develop its own brand for Chengdu's convention and exhibition industry, Mu said.

As an increasingly significant city in western China, Chengdu plays a crucial role in the region's opening-up and development, he noted.

At the intersection of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Yangtze River Economic Zone, two of China's key national strategies, the city will receive a range of national support and open up to more opportunities.

The Tianfu New Area stretching across neighboring cities, but most of it in Chengdu, will also offer new opportunities to the city after it was approved by the State Council last year as the country's 11th national-level development area.

Mu noted that since China joined the WTO in 2001, first-tier cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou have been saturated with international and domestic convention and exhibition companies. It is now a time of "reshuffling" for the industry, with the focus on the country's central and western region.

According to the bureau, Chengdu is working on making itself the top choice for inter-

national companies among all cities in the region.

As the aviation hub in and gateway to the central-western region and with abundant tourist resources and an appealing business environment, the city has attracted multinational event companies from Britain and Germany. Joint-venture companies like renowned Reed Exhibitions also present regular events in the city.

Expo zone

Mu said Chengdu is now stepping up efforts to develop an international expo zone.

The project scheduled for completion by 2016 will make Chengdu the largest exhibition city in the central-western region in terms of total exhibition area and bring sustainable development for the industry in the city. It features an exhibition area covering 300,000 square meters.

Mu said his bureau's major efforts also include brand building, talent development, research, industry regulation and improving the environment.

Its objective is to develop Chengdu into a national expo city with international impact.

Before the Spring Festival, the exposition bureau sent delegations to cities around the country to promote the expo industry in Chengdu.

On Feb 10, the delegation gave a detailed introduction in Shanghai and the next stop will be Shenzhen.

More than 20 event-organizing companies in Shanghai showed interest in setting up expos in the city.

Revenue from the conventions and exhibitions industry this year is expected to reach 7.5 billion yuan (\$1.2 billion), said Mu.

He added the bureau is also

striving to improve current expos and events to make them more international, professional, market-oriented, well-regulated and technology-intensive.

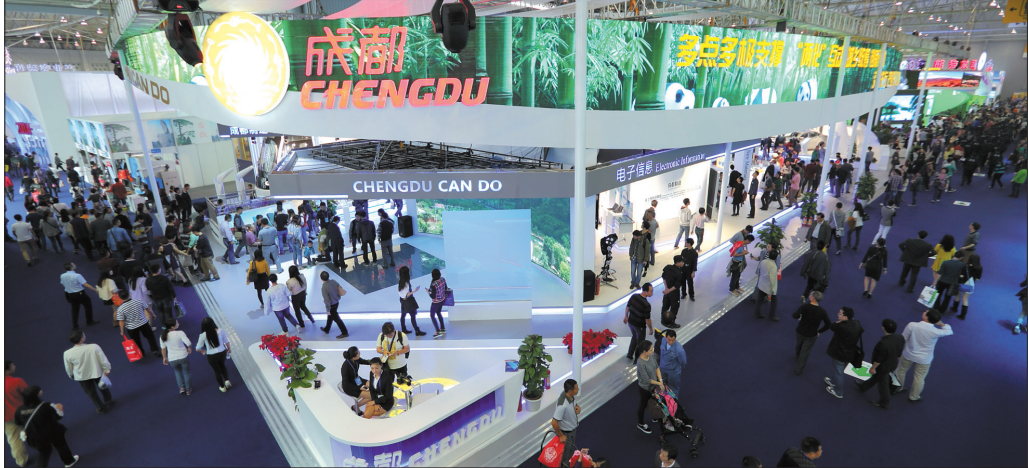
It will also use expos as venues to attract more investment and seal more trade deals to further develop the city's industries.

The city is also improving its facilities and services to attract more convention and exhibition companies from around the world.

The exposition bureau is stepping up to tap into new media by setting up official accounts on WeChat, Sina and Tencent Weibo to provide the latest news from the industry as well as registration procedures and tips exhibitors.

530 major events

In 2014, Chengdu hosted 530 major events including 113 international conferences and 214 expos — 49 of them international — as well as 203 festivals. Major events included



The 15th Western China International Fair held in Chengdu in October 2014 attracts more than 60,000 business representatives from 98 countries and regions. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

the Chengdu Motor Show, the Western China International Fair, the Michelin Challenge Bibendum and the Chengdu Creativity Design Week.

Total exhibition area in the year reached 3.25 million sq m, up 8 percent compared with 2013.

The display area for the 49

international expos totaled 1.74 million sq m, up 16 percent on an annual basis.

Direct revenue from the industry reached 6.95 billion

yuan, up 14.9 percent compared with 2013. Direct revenue from each event rose to 13 million yuan on average, up 9 percent.



Major players in the auto industry gather at the 12th Michelin Challenge Bibendum in Chengdu to share their insights on sustainable mobility. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY