

fashion

FALL FORWARD

Say goodbye to soft and pretty – the look du jour this season is gritty, grungy and oh-so gutsy.

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Fashion's been through a lot in the last few years. First AMC's *Mad Men* premiered and brought with it a renewed interest in vintage styles from the

'50s and '60s, which is still flourishing today. Then the economy tanked and designers across the world released pared-down, penny-pinched collections, and suddenly it was possible to buy Rodarte, Alexander McQueen and Jean Paul Gaultier at Target.

This year's Fall/Winter runway shows demonstrated a return to carefree, spendthrift days, pre-economic buzzkill. Chanel's ready-to-wear collection featured Yeti-like suits that engulf its wearer in fur, and gold became a must-have hue—the

more regal the better. What caught our eye, however, was not just the flash and decadence, but the masculine air that touched everything from slouchy jeans and oversized blouses to sleek hats and thick footwear. And

what's more macho than a soldier? Military-inspired blazers, complete with epaulettes and metallic buttons, and army green fatigues worn with lace-up combat boots give a much-needed edginess to a closet full of party dresses.

Sound familiar? You may remember these fads from their '90s heyday. Grunge is back, but we don't necessarily mean rumpled old flannels (though you shouldn't throw those away just yet). Body-suits, black leather jackets and animal-print everything top our list

of fall fashion essentials. We're piling on the layers and pairing them with sky-high studded clogs and wedges that look like playground slides. Colorwise, you can't go wrong with earth tones, green and camel—the latter of which looks par-

ticularly luxe in the form of a tailored winter coat. Mix and match chunky accessories like statement necklaces and wild, dangly earrings that beg for an updo. Echoing the season's couture, handbags look best in animal prints, metallics and fine leather.+

left: Double-wrap studded belt (\$98) and gold beaded necklace (\$48) from Picky Girl; Vince army green blouse (\$210) and black leather jacket (\$845), ivory Rag & Bone shirt (\$310), and Steve Madden "Harlem" boots (\$129.95) from Nordstrom; black Kensie Girl dress worn as skirt (\$59) and Toy Box necklace (\$45) from Cliché. Vintage scarf.

middle: Olive Tulle skirt (\$44), Far Nine chain belt (\$24) and clutch (\$38), and Cocoquette statement necklace (\$70) from Cliché; Fluxus zebra-stripe t-shirt (\$96) from Picky Girl; Vince chambray blouse (\$235), Haniiy leather vest (\$890), and Balenciaga short boots (\$1,095) from Nordstrom.

right: See by Chloé cheetah-print dress worn as blouse (\$595), Phillip Lim leather skirt (\$595), and Sam Edelman "Zachery" studded wedges (\$224.95) from Nordstrom; Far Nine chain belt (\$24) and handbag (\$48), and Cocoquette necklace (\$42) from Cliché.

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