



press clip

Screen test

THE DESIRE to dress like a teenager has been abruptly terminated by design giants Prada, Louis Vuitton, Marc Jacobs, Dries Van Noten and, locally, Alexandra Owen. Their new vision of “grown up” elegance has tarnished the allure of skinny and skimpy everything and refocused our attention on beautiful womanly attire.

The 1950s are their inspiration for the look, with fitted bodices and full skirts emphasising tiny waists – for example, Louis Vuitton teamed a herringbone tweed bodice with a full leather skirt (far right). Slimmer dresses are also in vogue, but only if they also showcase womanly curves with nipped-in waists. Hemlines have also dropped to a more modest length, just below the knee.

Overall, it's good news for most women, whose pear-shaped figures just don't suit the “skinny” look, and a welcome break from shift-style dresses and tunics that have been around for so long. If you need inspiration, head to the video store's classic movie section. Silver screen icons of the 1950s Grace Kelly and Sophia Loren are perfect muses for the look. ☺

1 Veronica Maine silk mix dress with full skirt (\$319). Mina Martini pewter leather shoes with detachable Marcasite clips (\$219.90) from Andrea Biani. Vintage silk chiffon head square (\$10) from Auntie Mavis in St Kevin's Arcade. Vintage gloves, stylist's own.

2 Hi There from Karen Walker striped dress with bow trim (\$245). Vintage nautical scarf (\$10) from Auntie Mavis in St Kevin's Arcade. Diva enamel snake

bangle (\$19.99). Mi Piaci faux snake peep-toe shoes with black patent trim (\$230).

3 Alannah Hill wool and cashmere cropped jacket (\$519). Beth Ellery waffle jersey full-skirted dress (\$513) from Scotties. Ksubi glasses (\$399).

4 Claire Barker spotted silk dress with striped belt (\$308). Vintage raffia handbag (\$45) from Vixen No 8. Ksubi cat's eye glasses (\$399). Vintage gloves, stylist's own. Shoes as before.

styling tips

Dressed “up-do” hair is important, but if you can't manage that, try a simple ponytail, set halfway up the head (think Sandy in *Grease*).

Lower spiked or kitten heels work well with full skirts.

Framed handbags set the tone. If you can't find any in store, check out vintage clothing stores. Vixen No 8 in St Kevin's Arcade is a good hunting ground.

If you wear glasses, you can go retro with these, with heavier resin frames and particularly the “cat's eye” shape, if it suits you.

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Louis Vuitton showed a tweed bodice with a full leather skirt for autumn/winter 2010/11 at Paris Fashion Week.

Stockists

Alannah Hill (09) 522 1171
Andrea Biani (09) 529 5933
Aunty Mavis 021 891 591
Claire Barker (09) 309 3331
Diva 0800 348269
Karen Walker (09) 522 4286
Ksubi Glasses 0800 607895
Mi Piaci (09) 520 6559
Scotties (09) 366 1664
Veronica Maine (09) 522 8200
Vixen No 8 (09) 309 8884

Stylist **Alice Rycroft**

Styling assistant **Ines Domanovic**

Hair and makeup **Carolyn Haslett** for **M.A.C**

Model **Derya** from **62 Models**

Pictures **Greg Bowker**