

stylefile

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As we look for guidance from the master houses of couture - Christian Lacroix, Chanel, Givenchy, Valentino and many more – they, in turn, have payed homage to the divinity of Hollywood glamour, seeking inspiration this season from the 40s and 50s red carpet.

The leading ladies of Hollywood were strong in their persona and career, but remained ever so feminine. Using classic silhouettes and glamorous fabrics to accentuate their curves and frame their faces, they oozed sexual elegance. Then adding trims of lace and soft flowing chiffons and georgette, created the highly romantic atmosphere of this era.

As this influence filters through the designers onto our racks, look for the elegant and sexy slim lines, kicking out at the hem with extra fullness into the back and train, ie. straight, bias and fishtail dresses. Or find a dress that has the soft, romantic layers and intricate details of lace and sheer fabrics falling long and flowing through the skirt, like micro ruched necklines, overlays of French lace falling from under the bust, and circular cut panels of sheer fabrics draping into the train.

With these traditional styles, designers are adding a contemporary twist using strong geometric lines to accentuate and flatter, - either under the bust (empire line), through the waist or angled across the hip, depending on your body shape to help slim and lengthen. Also crossing the designs over into the new millennium using silver and metallic fabrics, laces and crystals will create a look more striking than ever before.

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