

FOUR

Beyond the best-known names in fashion's four most famous cities lies a rich and varied landscape of

TO

*international talent. Explore new style horizons by getting to know these designers—**Istanbul's Arzu Kaprol,***

WATCH

Antwerp's Christian Wijnants, Tokyo's Maiko Kurogouchi and Beirut's Rabih Kayrouz—

IN

*rising stars whose work is as rooted in their local cultures as it is open to the world. **By Shirine Saad***

2014

Photography: Rabih Kayrouz Winter 2013 collection, courtesy Rabih Kayrouz



ARZU KAPROL

ISTANBUL

“The woman I design for is confident, sophisticated, independent and passionate about design. She is elegant and likes to stand out.”



THE SOPHISTICATE

TURKISH DESIGNER Arzu Kaprol, who shows her collections in Paris and is carried by stores such as Harvey Nichols and Bergdorf Goodman, is lauded for her precise tailoring and luxurious finishes—from patterned wools and leathers to fine furs and graphic prints.

- Kaprol was born in Bursa and studied in Istanbul and Paris. While she looks to the perfect refinement of French couturier Madame Grès and the revolutionary lines of Futuristic architecture for inspiration, she thrives on Istanbul's unique, connected vibe. “Istanbul is hectic, chaotic and breathtaking,” she says. “It’s a historical city, between East and West, Europe and Asia.”
- The designer often starts with a conceptual idea. For her Winter collection, she looked at the realities of communicating in a hyperconnected world, using a circle motif to make curvilinear patterns and op-art prints on silk.

DECONSTRUCTING KAPROL

The Inspirations *Futurist architecture, Madame Grès*

The Look *Structured sensuality*

The Mentors *Kaprol’s mother and grandmother, who were both seamstresses*

The Muses *Chanel Iman and Milla Jovovich*



CHRISTIAN WIJNANTS

ANTWERP

“ I try to bring a dose of freshness, using new techniques each season and working a lot around defining a new femininity. ”



THE INTELLECTUAL

IN THE TRADITION OF great Belgian designers, Christian Wijnants creates architectural collections infused with creativity and intelligence. The Brussels native, who studied at Antwerp's legendary Royal Academy of Fine Arts, makes fluid clothes with intricate details such as graphic tie-dye, surreal digital prints, complex drapings or fine DayGlo knits. • Wijnants grew up in awe of the Antwerp Six, a group of cutting-edge designers (including Ann Demeulemeester and Dries Van Noten) who graduated from the academy in the early 1980s and have established themselves in the history of fashion. He dreamt of attending the academy's intensive fashion program, which accepts only a fraction of applicants, of whom about half qualify for the second year. • Wijnants has collected prestigious honours since his time at the academy, including the Dries Van Noten award in 2000, the Swiss Textiles award in 2005 and the International Woolmark Prize in 2013. • For his Winter collection, Wijnants looked at German photographer Michael Wolf's gridlike images of Hong Kong skyscrapers and at the vibrant tonalities in nature. He contrasted casual lines with luxurious details such as "fur" made of hand-shredded silk; pops of coral red, chartreuse and tangerine; and graphic patterns created with *shibori* dyeing.

DECONSTRUCTING WIJNANTS

The Inspirations *Surrealism, Dadaism, African folk art, Wes Anderson movies*

The Look *Carefully considered conceptualism*

The Mentors *Martin Margiela, Ann Demeulemeester, Dries Van Noten*

The Muses *Belgian model Anouck Lepere, Belgian singer-songwriter Axelle Red*



MAIKO KUROGOUCHI

TOKYO

“ I have always been inspired by the colours and textures of nature, and by feminine curves. ”



THE DREAMER

MAME DESIGNER Maiko Kurogouchi grew up in mountainous, lush Nagano, where the tradition of ancestral craftsmanship still thrives. Mame's strangely beautiful universe is filled with silk tunics thin as air, fantastical animal prints, earth-coloured leathers and sky-tinted sweaters. Mame also has a line of vinyl accessories, transparent creatures that are both sci-fi and organic. Her designs are minimalist, exuding a subdued spirit of Japanese *wabi-sabi*—the acceptance of imperfection and embrace of simplicity. She designs her clothes, made for “traversing modern life,” for a woman who “has inner strength and is very sensitive, too.” • Kurogouchi studied at the Bunka Fashion College, where designers Junya Watanabe and Yohji Yamamoto learned their craft. In 2005 she won the Grand Prix at the Concours International Jeunes Créateurs de Mode awards. She later trained with Japanese master Issey Miyake before launching her own label in 2010—soon taken up by fashion editors and stylists and featured in the country's top magazines. • Her latest collection, “Your Memory,” is inspired by a series of early 20th-century portraits that she found in Kanazawa. She created an outfit for each person in the pictures. For Karina, for example, who wrote a letter to tell her lover she was awaiting him, Kurogouchi made a long dress with side draping “that would have made her beautiful while she waited.”

DECONSTRUCTING KUROGOUCHI

The Inspirations *The textures and colours of Japanese landscapes*

The Look *Surreal beauty*

The Mentor *Issey Miyake*

The Muses *Forward-looking fashion editors and actresses*



RABIH KAYROUZ

BEIRUT

“ I live between Paris and Beirut, and love this life. I love these seas/mountains, Orient/Occident contrasts. ”



THE POET

THE MEDITERRANEAN'S VERDANT landscapes and Paris' structured grandeur find their way into the collections of Lebanese designer Rabih Kayrouz, which have the fluid shapes and bright colours of nature and the rigorous lines of cityscapes. His silhouettes are pure and his materials luxuriant: vaporous organzas, buttery cashmeres and luscious gazars, in rich tones of emerald, poppy red, sapphire and gold. • Kayrouz grew up in troubled times in Lebanon, but left Beirut at age 16 to study at L'École de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne. He trained at Chanel and Dior before returning to Lebanon. After a friend asked him to design her wedding gown, Kayrouz became famous for his ethereal made-to-measure dresses. Socialites and royals called in with orders; brides-to-be lined up at his atelier. In 2009 he established Maison Rabih Kayrouz in Paris, and was invited to show during Couture by the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture. • His Winter collection, "Waiting," explores the dual energies of the contemporary woman with tough yet sensual silhouettes. Flowing dresses are grounded in hues of royal blue, ivory or jet black. Strict pant suits and coats are softened with fur inserts. Subtle detailing adds delicate depth to thick knits.

DECONSTRUCTING KAYROUZ

The Inspirations *Forests, Oscar Niemeyer, Mies van der Rohe, women*

The Look *Lyrical minimalism*

The Mentors *Yohji Yamamoto, Yves Saint Laurent*

The Muses *Queen Rania of Jordan, Tilda Swinton, it girls, socialites*

Brooklyn-based **Shirine Saad**, author of *Boho Beirut: A Guide to the Middle East's Most Sophisticated City*, writes on culture and lifestyle for *The New York Times Style Magazine*, *MTV* and *NOWNESS*.

