Marc Jacobs is one of the few designers that the fashion press, buyers, and diffusionary markets pay close attention to each season for the direction and focus of the season. With the innate ability to tap into the mood and style of a generation, Jacobs delivers what people want to wear and has become one of the most influential designers of our age.

**Influenced By**

- **Comme des Garçons**

  Rei Kawakubo’s influence could be felt in Jacobs’ Fall 06 collections for Louis Vuitton and in Fall 06 and Spring 08 Marc Jacobs shows in the abstraction of form, silhouette, and relationship of clothing to the body.

- **Halston**

  Halston represents the essence of New York chic, which Jacobs has emulated in his use of long fitted shapes in his Fall 2007 collection.

- **André Courrèges**

  In Fall 2003 for Marc Jacobs as well as Louis Vuitton Spring 2000, Jacobs referenced the short crisp looks that Courrèges was famous for in the 1960s. A typically sharp 1960s Courrèges design, left.

- **Bruce**

  Designers Nicole Noselli and Daphne Gutierrez of fashion label Bruce understand and decode the type of New York downtown chic that is a component in all of Marc by Marc Jacobs shows.

- **Christopher Bailey**

  For Burberry Prorsum Bailey has been influenced by Jacobs’ use of utilitarian clothing as style basics, adding luxury to create a desirable and fresh approach.

- **4.3.1 Phillip Lim**

  Like Jacobs, Lim often uses multiple vintage references (as seen, left).

**Marc Jacobs**

**American** (1963 New York)

- Attends Parsons School of Design in New York.
- Receives two Gold Thimble Awards; Perry Ellis and Chester Weinburg as well as Designer of the Year Designer of the Year Regional Designers Regional Designers for Parsons Thammas ics. While still in school he sells a knit collection of sweaters.
- Receives Council of Fashion Designers of America Perry Ellis Award for New Talent. At the time was the youngest designer to receive this prestigious award.

**Chronology**

- 1981–84
- 1984
- 1986
- 1987

**INSPIRED**

“I like romantic allusions to the past: what the babysitter wore, what the art teacher wore, what I wore during my experimental days in fashion when I was going to the Mudd Club and wanted to be a New Wave kid or a punk kid but was really a poseur. It’s the awkwardness of posing and feeling like I was in, but I never was in. Awkwardness gives me great comfort.”

Marc Jacobs

Marc Jacobs is a creative force that extends beyond any traditional limitation such as market or price point, translating and synthesizing style impulses into a fresh perspective. As the creative director of Louis Vuitton based in Paris, his eponymous line Marc Jacobs in New York, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Marc Jacobs Men, Stinky Rat, Little Marc, and countless licensees all of which are sold internationally, Marc Jacobs has an overwhelming influence on the fashion industry. His harshest critics have accused Jacobs of copying, styling, and generally not being original. The fact remains however that a simple copyist could not set the tone for an entire season by pulling together style impulses, mood, color, and silhouette in a consistently fresh way that is heralded by the fashion press and consumers alike. Jacobs combines esoteric, intellectual, philosophical concepts from art, design, and culture and translates them in an original way into something that is

**Tree chic**

Utilizing a broad spectrum of influences, Marc Jacobs combines a quintessential Parisian chic with American style icons to create collections that are influential in their silhouettes, fabric, and color direction.
Marc Jacobs, a member of the X-generation, has always been influenced by growing up in New York City in the 1970s, his love of the dance clubs, parties, and nightlife of the 1980s and his mature appreciation of art and design. Music is always an important component of his creativity, from bands such as Sonic Youth to classical music such as Pachelbel’s Canon, Jacobs is said to listen to the same music repeatedly throughout the design process. An early example of music’s influence on Jacobs’s work is the finale first and then the art of transparency of his collection for Louis Vuitton in 1993. Although the collection ultimately got him dismissed from his post as Design Director, Marc Jacobs established himself as a translator of music.

Marc Jacobs seems to travel through fashion phases focusing on an idea or a set of style problems that he needs to solve and then moves on. There are some designers that approach the process of design in a consistent aesthetic, while Marc Jacobs has no problem moving from one idea to the next. To further confuse the path of inspiration, Jacobs blends several different style snapshots into one collection. Throughout his career he has approached historical references from a 1940s, 1970s, or 1980s point of view, sometimes combining them completely to a Japanese focus on abstraction and philosophy. Jacobs is said to listen to the same music repeatedly throughout the design process. An early example of music’s influence on Jacobs’s work is the finale first and then the art of transparency of his collection for Louis Vuitton in 1993. Although the collection ultimately got him dismissed from his post as Design Director, Marc Jacobs established himself as a translator of music.

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