

Highway

Historical ideals of high waisted waistlines originate to the 1910s, a time where it was deemed fashionable for women to wear high waisted outfits and tunic style tops. Trends are cyclical, given that during the 1920-1922, the waistline was lowered to create an androgynous look (Victoria and Albert Museum, 2015). The modernized version of the women pant suit was driven from women who joined the workforce to take leadership positions. The popularity of the pantsuit rose around the 1980s, when blazers withholding large shoulder pads came to rise. In the early 1940s, pants were designed for women, as they were worked rather than being home; management positions as well as the annual sale of women suits increased. Originally, women wore suits to reflect men in their work fields, but now work office attire highly accounts for women's pant suits, with high waisted features (Segran, 2018).

There are variations of the high waisted trend, which are seen in designer looks of 2019, and 2020. Such designers embrace women pant suits, which shifts from the low rise, hip hugging styles that were prevalent in previous years (Smith, 2010) . Rosie Assoulin had various women's pant suit looks for her 2019 Fall Ready-to-Wear Collection, where she varies the high waisted look with both straight leg and wide leg trousers. Designer Rosie Assoulin has high waisted pant suit looks, which was followed by the plaid trend in her Fall 2020 Ready-to-Wear Collection. Another designer Victoria Beckham uses the high waisted look in her Fall 2019 Ready-to-Wear Collection, where the style is seen with a flared pant leg. Victoria Beckham also uses this high waisted look in her Fall 2020 Ready-to-Wear Collection, seen with a straight leg pant. *The images below show models from various collections.*



Rosie Assoulin Fall 2020



Victoria Beckham Fall 2020

Uno Breasted

The history of the single breasted style dates to 1666, during the reign of King Charles II, who had banned the attire of cloaks and doublets, and supported the wearing of breeches, vests, and cassocks. The consequence of this was the formal three-piece suit, which evolved in several ways (Yotka, 2019). The change was that in each evolution, the hem of the coat was regularly lifted higher. However, the lounge suit was designed in the 19th century mainly for sporting and country purposes. The lounge suit featured a jacket that went to the hip and had a single-breasted fastening on the front, thus offering tremendous ease of mobility and wear (The Rake, 2020). The design had become the staple garment at the end of World War I, and many termed it as three-seamer by tailors of that time.

The single-breasted style was a civilian outfit, with the double-breasted style worn on militaries. It has a single point of fastening, making it flattering and slimming when the fastening button is placed on the waist. In addition, the style has long lapels that swoop down to the narrow

part of the body (Balani, 2018). It forms a lovely canvas, which gives room for a wide range of possibilities as the design is minimal and straightforward. The single-breasted style offers a sharp look when buttoned or unbuttoned, thus perfect when one is going for an evening or day event. This style is the to-go-to, to achieve a creative layering effect, since it is simple and less bulky. Two of the designers who used the single-breasted style in women's suits are Carolina Herrera and Alexander McQueen during their Fall 2019 collections. *The images below show samples of single breasted suits.*



Carolina Herrera Fall 2019



Alexander McQueen Fall 2019

Deux Breasted

Double-breasted suits became the casual offering when suits began tailoring in the 1800s. The inspiration came from a naval reefer jacket, similar to a pea coat and was commonly worn during sports and leisure. In the 19th century it wasn't common to see an individual making an appearance in the office with a double-breasted suit as they would be easily turned away. The

double breasted style started hitting the limelight during the Golden Era, the 1920s and 1930s (Balani, 2018). During that period, Britain was in its celebration mood for a post-war that they won, and thus, people had money to spend on such attire.

In modern times, consumers are driven to purchase double-breasted styles, which comprise two panels on the front of the piece that overlaps and has two vertical rows of buttons (Coscarelli, 2018). The latter provides a cool look inspired by vintage dressing, which can be buttoned up or worn open over a graphic tee. The double-breasted style needs to be well-fitted to give a lovely look regarding physique and size (Phelps, 2020). Clare Waight Keller is a woman designer who presented suits with curved shoulders at Givenchy and changed slim blazers into something resounding and displayed loveliness (Vogue Runway, 2019). Alexander McQueen 2019 Ready-to-Wear Collection, it displays the use of couture tailoring of affordable lapel-less bottoms, and tops with a range of classic and blush colors. *The image below shows a model from a collection.*



Alexander McQueen Fall 2019

Gaga Padding

Shoulder pads are a style that was introduced in 1877, where pads are put into upper body garments to provide the illusion of having broad and prominent shoulders. Originally, they were created as a protective measure for those who play football. After six decades, fashion designers began to play around with style, also drawing inspiration from the European fashions “Aesthetic Movement”. In the early 1930’s Joan Crawford was immortalized in film wearing a dress with padded, puffy shoulders. Also, designer Adrian Adolph Greenburg emphasized the shoulders throughout the women’s clothing he designed. Whether it was gowns or tailored suiting, he made sure his designs featured “sharp, broad shoulders” (CFDA, 2017).

While Greenberg continued to design his women’s collections like this, when Christian Dior launched his womenswear suiting in 1947, it rivaled Greenberg’s with a different shape. World War II had ended two years prior, with women at levels of newfound independence. While the husbands were away at the war, the women took on the financial duties and began to join the workforce. Women were taking over jobs that were typically for men, and they needed the outfits to correspond with their roles. Shoulder pads came about and tackled the gender norms of men and women dressing. This style has created broad and strong shoulders for a garment, yet holds the femininity of a woman.

While the shoulder pad continued to hold its popularity, in the 1980’s it was brought back in full force. This was the decade of dressing for success. With that it revamped the shoulder pad and made it thicker and broader than it had been the last thirty years. Today, shoulder pads have been consistent in runway looks and fast fashion. In modern times, consumers are driven to

purchase double-breasted styles, which comprise two panels on the front of the piece that overlaps and has two vertical rows of buttons . According to Givhan (2019), the models of the 2019 Saint Laurent Fall Ready-to-Wear collection “could carry the weight of the world on those shoulders,” which brings the trend cyclical. , about women being able to take on these roles. *The image below shows a model from a collection.*



Anthony Vaccarello for Saint Laurent, 2020