

Amazing Designers That Have Shaped Fashion

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Figure 1



Design House: House of Worth (French, 1858–1956)

Designer: Charles Frederick Worth (French (born England), Bourne 1825–1895 Paris)

Date: 1890–1900

Culture: French

Medium: silk, cotton

Credit Line: Gift of R. Thornton Wilson, 1993

Accession Number: 1993.156.1a, b

Figure 2



Robe de Style

Designer: Paul Poiret (French, Paris 1879–1944 Paris)

Date: 1925

Culture: French

Medium: Silk

Credit Line: Gift of Mrs. Ivor Bevan, 1982

Accession Number: 1982.249

Charles Frederick Worth's (figure 1) gown was from the years between 1890 to 1900. Figure 1 demonstrates an A-line silhouette. This dress features an off the shoulder evening dress made with silk and cotton. There is some ruffle details below the collar and also applied to the arms, giving it a drape effect. The dress has a mustard color with floral prints. Along there are three steel blue ribbons in the front view. From the back there is a bustle to complete the look. Charles Frederick was born in Bourne, Lincolnshire, England in 1825. After 20 years later he moved to Paris in 1845. Charles Frederick Worth is known for the luxurious fabrics and trims, and was significantly influenced by historical past. He used to cater to upper class clients because his garments are made with expensive fabric. Worth also created collections of garments that were displayed on live models at the House of Worth for less wealthy clients. Worth was very successful because his clients selected what they wanted and he had them tailor-made in his own workshop. He would provide wardrobes such as morning, afternoon and evening dresses, nightgowns, wedding gowns, gowns for masquerade balls, and costumes worn onstage by famous actresses and singers. In 1895, Charles Frederick Worth passed away. His son's Gaston-Lucien and Jean Philippe took over the business. Charles Frederick Worth is known as the "Father of Haute Couture."

Paul Poiret's (figure 2) dress was from 1925, in a straight silhouette with a few pleat details. The dress reaches below the knee and is made in silk fabric in the color dusty blue.

Above the chest demonstrates a boat neckline. On the waistline and below the neck features embellishment of balls in the colors lavender, navy blue, blush pink, chilli red, space grey, and nude. Paul Poiret is a french couturier, born in Paris 1879. He is known as the “King of Fashion.” His career began luckily at a position for the House of Worth under Charles Worth’s sons Gaston and Jean-Pierre. He is the first couturier to advocate the elimination of the corseted female body. He replaced the corsets with loose fitting, lightweight silhouette for comfort towards women. Paul Poiret was very innovative. He conceived new ways in fashion such as the kimono-sleeved coat in 1906, hobble skirts in 1910, harem pants in 1911, and the lampshade tunic in 1913. Later as he became an independent couturier, he was easily influenced by the Orientalist designs of Leon Bakst for the Russian Ballets Ruse. He thought it would showcase a different perspective on how fashion show perceive based on their beautiful costumes. That developed Poiret to new combinations of color. Paul Poiret died on 1944.

Every designer brings something new to the table. Designers like Paul Poiret and Charles Frederick Worth are excellent examples to demonstrate their impact in fashion and how it has shaped to today. They share similar interest. For example they enjoy historical context and apply them to their pieces. They show a great selection of modernity and theatrical themes to their pieces. These designers supplied for women with garments never seen before. The pictures shown above demonstrate modernity which is why they can be seen as similarity.

References

1. Koda, Harold, and Andrew Bolton. "Paul Poiret (1879–1944)." In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000–. [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/poir/hd\\_poir.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/poir/hd_poir.htm) (September 2008)
2. Krick, Jessa. "Charles Frederick Worth (1825–1895) and the House of Worth." In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000–. [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/wrth/hd\\_wrth.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/wrth/hd_wrth.htm) (October 2004)