

Most Influential Designers

Dior & Chanel

Christian Dior- Background

- 1905-1957
- Sold fashion sketches to make money when he was younger
- Owned an art gallery
- Joined military
- Worked under many different designers
- Established his own fashion house in 1946



Dior's Best Known For

- “The New Look”: used yards and yards of fabric to contradict wartime restrictions
- Hourglass silhouette with accented lower half
- Fashion Capital=Paris, France



Coco Chanel- Background

- Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel (1883-1971)
- Nuns in her orphanage taught her to sew
- She was a mistress to two different wealthy men in the textile and fashion industry. The second financed her first shops in Paris.

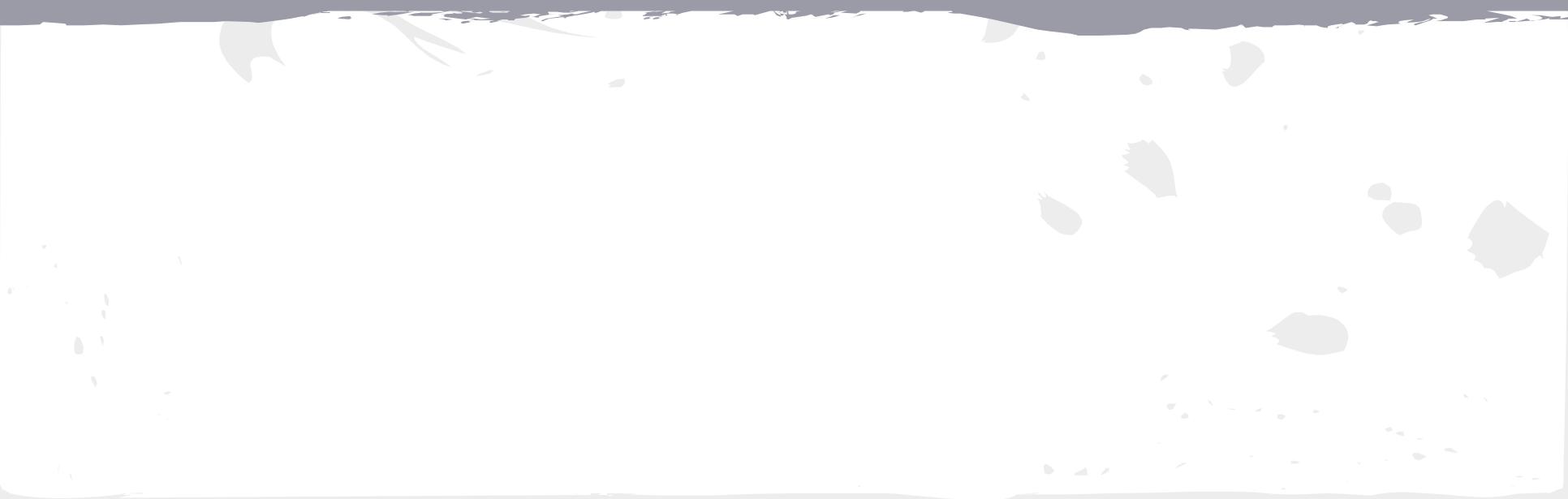


Chanel's Best Known For

- Little Black Dress
- Costume Jewelry
- Unstructured Clothing
- Chanel No. 5 (a bottle is still sold every 30 seconds)

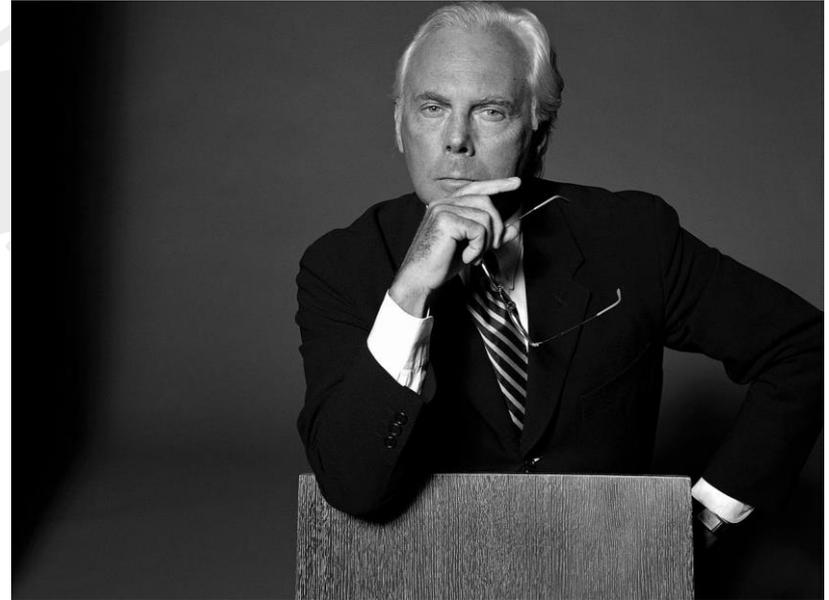


Other Influential Designers



Giorgio Armani

- Capital: Milan
- Known for:
menswear, suits
- Background:
originally wanted to
be a doctor; joined the
army; first job in
fashion industry was
as a window dresser



GIORGIO ARMANI

Guccio Gucci

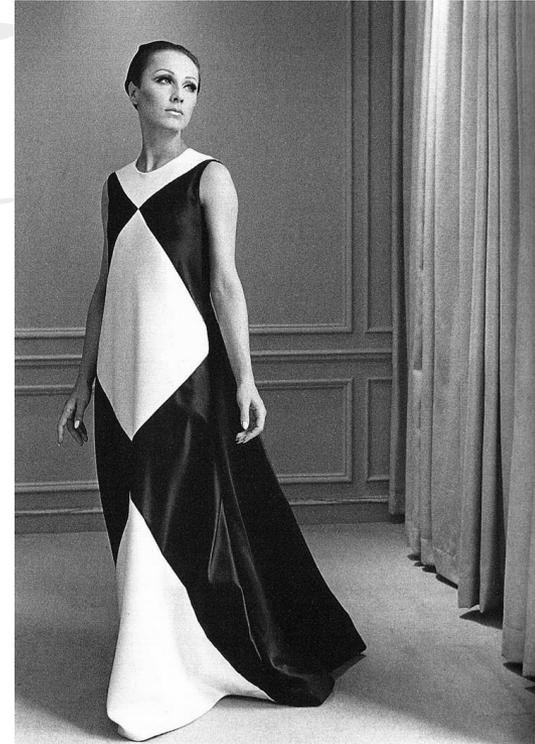
- Capital: Milan
- Known for:
LEATHER (bags, loafers, car interiors)
- Background:
worked in a hotel and was inspired by high-end leather luggage

GUCCI



Halston

- Capital: NYC
- Known for: pillbox hat for Jackie O., luxurious women's wear
- Background: window dresser, mom taught him how to sew



Tommy Hilfiger

- Capital: NYC
- Known for: preppy american style, sportswear
- Background: started in fashion opening his own store, unhappy with styles he could purchase, he started sketching his own



Donna Karan

- Capital: NYC
- Known for: DKNY, sophisticated, sleek style
- Background: born into fashion industry, mom was model and dad was a tailor



Calvin Klein

- Capital: NYC
- Known for: coats, underwear, jeans
- Background: began with coats; went to art school; grandma taught him to sew



Calvin Klein

Yves Saint Laurent

- Capital: Paris
- Known for: tuxedo for women, using models of color
- Background: head designer for Dior at age 21



Ralph Lauren

Capital: NYC

Known for: Polo,
neckties, sportswear,
Olympic opening and
closing ceremony
uniforms

Background: born
Ralph Lifshitz, sold
ties to his classmates

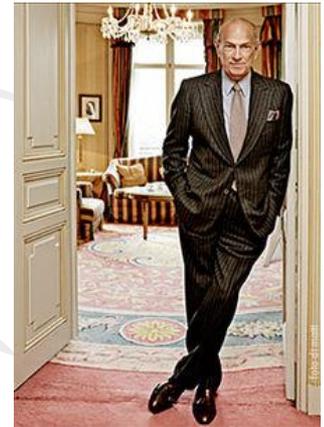


RALPH  LAUREN



Oscar De La Renta

- Capital: Paris
- Known for:
wedding dresses;
red carpet designs
- Background: went
to art school; sold
fashion sketches to
make money;
commissioned to
make dress from
sketch



Oscar de la Renta

Gianni Versace

- Capital: Milan
- Known for: luxury, bright colors, bold prints
- Background: taught to sew by his mother, murdered and his sister, Donatella, took over his label



VERSACE



Vera Wang

- Capital: NYC
- Known for: wedding and evening gowns; Simply Vera (sold at Kohls)
- Background: was a competitive pairs figure skater; worked for Vogue then Ralph Lauren; launched her own label at age 40



**VERA WANG**



Vivienne Westwood

- Capital: London
- Known for: modern punk style; made punk mainstream
- Background: first taught elementary school and designing jewelry



**Vivienne
Westwood**

