

# designer profiles

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The Best Black and White Shows on the Runway

## Chanel Spring 2012 Collection

Chanel is a perennial powerhouse on the runway, and this season started with a crisp white suit that spoke softly of the freshness of spring yet to come. The white suit morphed into loose white dresses with sharp black squares, which then lead to a series of soft pastel creations. The show slowly made its way back to its black and white roots, with the final seven looks filled with embellished dresses perfect for a classic night on the town.

## Gareth Pugh 2012 Collection

Pugh showed a graphic black and white collection that began with a black avant-garde caged top. The hard unmovable edges of the first looks of cut out tops and dresses continued in the architectural lines of the following looks. The fabrics softened the second half of the show, but still retained the sharp graphic prints. The final four looks strayed from the purely black and white palette with shiny deep purple and insect-like head pieces that completely covered the models heads, an ode to his dark, gothic roots.

## Emporio Armani 2012 Collection

Black and white has never looked sexier than on the Emporio Armani runway. Crystals and sequins accented the black, white, and icy pastel palette Armani used. One dress in particular, with a deep v-neck, artful cutouts, and black crystals exuded sophisticated sex appeal. The models were exact replicas with short blond wigs and thick cat-eyes, continually accentuating the black and white contrast.

## Jason Wu 2012 Collection

Wu's smaller collection of 38 pieces was a study in luxurious minimalism, with sharply tailored separates and bejeweled necklines. The collection utilized the gray scale beautifully. The rich charcoals and shiny graphite's provided depth to the collection while the bright blue, chartreuse, and bubblegum pink accents gave the collection enough punch to keep boredom at bay.