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Top Fashion Designers Of 2009 Set The Bar For The Next Decade

Dec 31st 2009 8:16AM

By Tami Yu

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Most of us might not be able to afford haute couture, but we can still admire 2009's fashion highlights. From breakout designers to established brands, the following designers have really stood out among the fashion elite.

Jason Wu

American designer Jason Wu was already a fashion darling, but at the tender age of 26, he was catapulted into the public's attention when [Michelle Obama](#) wore his one-shoulder white chiffon gown for the inauguration balls. Wu had started his line three years earlier, but his polished designs have already caught the attention of Anna Wintour, January Jones, and RuPaul.



Getty Images



Dolce & Gabbana

Italian duo Dolce & Gabbana continued to stun and evolve with this year's collection. Their Fall/Winter 2009 collection combined very [feminine](#) silhouettes with luxurious details and flamboyant fabrics, and they remain as one of the most innovative visionaries of the fashion world.

Diane von Furstenburg

With over 3 decades of experience in the industry, Furstenburg first introduced her legendary wrap dress in the early 70s. Her love of mixed prints and bold designs earned her a permanent spot in the fashion hall of fame. This year's look was very [hippie chic](#), with flowing fabrics and flirty dresses. Her dresses flatter every body shape and she's not afraid to use color.

Chanel

Another legend in his own right, Karl Lagerfeld stays ahead of the game by maintaining Coco Chanel's timeless vision. This year's fall/winter ready-to-wear collection didn't have too much color outside of black and white, but the elegant frocks were peppered with ruffles, high collars, satin skirts, and a slender silhouette juxtaposed with masculine lines. In order words, it's [classic](#) Chanel.

Isabel Toledo

Cuban-born American Isabel Toledo also had the huge honor of dressing Michelle Obama for the presidential inauguration. Her gorgeous lemongrass wool overcoat and shift [ensemble](#) is forever embedded into our sartorial memories. Toledo's precise, sculptural designs enable her clothes to follow the wearer's curves, and she's also greatly inspired by her husband's art.

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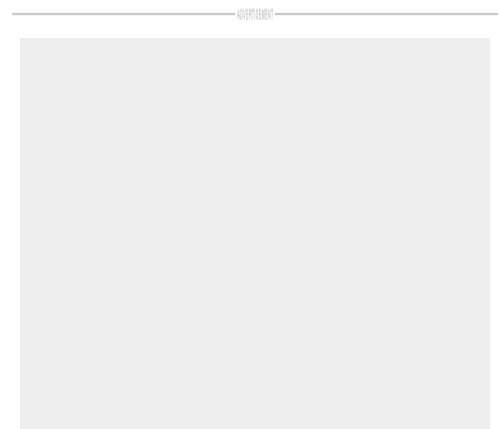
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